THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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GOVT POSTPONES NEET, JEE-MAINS AS COVID-19 CASES RISE

The Union HRD Ministry on Friday postponed medical and engineering entrance exams NEET and JEE to September in view of the spike in Covid-19 cases. "The JEE-Mains will be held on September 1-6, while the JEE-advanced exam will be held on September 27. NEET examination will be held on September 13," said Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nihank'.

MODI PUTS CHINA ON NOTICE

Says the era of expansionism is over and the age of development has begun; praises troops for showing their 'fire and fury'; foreign secretary briefs five countries on the LAC situation

MAYANK SINGH & PUSHKAR BANAKAR @ New Delhi

SENDING out a strong signal to China, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the days of expansionism were over and that India's commitment to peace should not be interpreted by any country as a sign of weakness.

"The era of expansionism has come to an end. This is the era of development. History has proved that expansionist forces have either lost or were forced to turn back," he said, while addressing troops during a surprise visit to Nimu in Ladakh.

Paying tribute to the courage and devotion of Indian soldiers, Modi said, "The enemies of India have seen the fire and fury of our forces." The world had taken note of India's strength and the exemplary bravery of the Armed Forces, the Prime Minister said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi acknowledges the greetings of soldiers at a forward location in Ladakh's Nimu on Friday | PTI

Although he did not mention China even once in his address, it was clear he was referring to India's northern neighbour. Reacting to Modi's speech, the Chinese embassy here said that it was wrong to view China as expansionist and to fabricate its disputes with its neighbours.

"China has demarcated boundary with 12 of its 14 neighbouring countries through peaceful negotiations, turning land borders into bonds of friendly cooperation. It's groundless to view China as 'expansionist', exaggerate and fabricate its disputes with neighbours," tweeted Ji Rong, the Chinese embassy spokesperson.

The PM's visit came on a day when India also reached out diplomatically to the US, Germany, France, Russia and Japan. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla briefed the countries on the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"Had a good talk with FS Shringla. Appreciated his briefing on the situation along LAC, including GOI's policy to pursue peaceful resolution. Japan also hopes for peaceful resolution through dialogues. Japan opposes any unilateral attempts to change the status quo," Japanese Ambassador to India Satoshi Suzuki tweeted.

During his interaction with the troops, the Prime Minister spoke at length about how the virtues of peace, friendship and courage have been a part of India's culture. India has always given a befitting reply to anyone who has tried to disturb peace, he noted.

"India is stronger today, be it in Naval might, Air power, space power or the strength of our Army. Modernisation of weapons and upgradation of infrastructure has enhanced our defence capabilities multifold," Modi said, adding that India's spending on border infrastructure has been enhanced three times.

The Prime Minister also visited the military hospital in Leh and interacted with soldiers who were injured during the border clash with China on June 15.

Modi was accompanied by Chief of the Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and Army Chief Gen M M Naravane. P7

Modernisation of armed forces a priority: Modi

Speaking to soldiers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said modernisation of the Armed Forces is a priority. "India manufactures modern weapons today. We are bringing modern technology from around the world," he said

Japan throws its weight behind India

Japan on Friday extended support to India over its border stand-off with China. "Japan opposes any unilateral attempts to change the status quo," said Japanese Ambassador Satoshi Suzuki on Friday

Miffed China says don't complicate matters

Reacting to Modi's visit, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said that India and China are in touch via military and diplomatic channels and "neither side should make any move that may complicate the border situation"

KARNATAKA COVID-19 BATTLE

FRESH CASES	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
1,694	19,710	293

Now, home isolation for asymptomatic patients

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TWEAKING its strategy in tackling Covid-19, the State Government on Friday announced that henceforth, asymptomatic patients and people with mild symptoms who are aged below 50, but with no comorbidities, will be kept under home isolation. Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar told reporters on Friday after a Covid task force meeting that fresh guidelines have been issued in this regard.

"Those aged below 50, are asymptomatic and have oxygen saturation above 95% will be placed under home isolation. Those aged over 50, or with comorbidities, will be placed in Covid care centres irrespective of whether they are asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic. Patients with moderate symptoms and aged below 50 will also be in Covid care centres. Only those with serious symptoms and oxygen saturation below 90% will be in hospitals," he explained.

As per the new guidelines, the patient should report every day to the physician or health authorities and have a pulse oximeter, digital thermometer and PPE. A caregiver should be available 24/7, with regular communication links between the caregiver and hospital. An e-tag band will be put on the left wrist to alert authorities about violation of home isolation.

The health staff will assess health factors using thermal scanner for fever, pulse oximetry for oxygen saturation levels, glucometer for random blood sugar and BP apparatus for recording blood pressure. P5

EXPRESS READ

8 UP cops killed during raid to nab criminal

Kanpur: Eight police personnel, including a DSP, were gunned down in a village near here by the henchmen of a criminal who lost two of them in a firefight later, officials said on Friday. Seven others, including a civilian, were injured in the attack from a rooftop on a police team, which had entered Bikru village past Thursday midnight to arrest Vikas Dubey, a history-sheeter who faces about 60 criminal cases. The attackers fled, snatching weapons from the dead and the wounded policemen. P8

ICMR pushes the vaccine envelope, singed

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

AIMING to expedite human trials of India's first Covid-19 vaccine candidate developed by Bharat Biotech, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) wrote to 12 hospitals across 10 states selected for the task, but its stern tone and tight timeline led to an uproar.

The ICMR sought to set the clock for the launch of the vaccine for public use by August 15, which was surprising since its human trial hasn't even begun. Jumping the gun by assuming success doesn't befit a research organisation of such repute, experts opined.

ICMR chief Dr Balram Bhargava's July 2 letter directed enrollment of volunteers for trials in five days flat — by July 7.

Also, some of the chosen hospitals are small setups with no established track record of major research. "I don't know how it is possible to launch a vaccine in little over a month which has not even entered Phase 1 and 2 trials," said Anant Bhan, a specialist in global health and bioethics. "Also, I think that many sites chosen for the project won't even have ethics committees approved by the drug regulator and have no prior experience of carrying out a clinical trial for vaccines."

For faster trials, nearly 1,300 patients will be enrolled in AIIMS alone, sources said, though early human trials are done with much smaller numbers. CONTINUED ON: P7

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

02 BENGALURU | SATURDAY 04.07.2020 | newindianexpress.com

ALMANAC TODAY

• **Saturday** 04/07/2020 • **Year:** Sarvari • **Ayana :** Uttharayana • **Ritu:** Greeshma • **Masa:** Ashada • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Chaturdashi 11:02 am • **Nakshatra:** Moola 11:41 pm • Moon in Makara Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 09:00 am to 10:30am • **Gulikakala:** 06:00 am to 07:30 am • **Yamaganda:** 01:49 pm to 03:26 pm

WEATHER WATCH

MIN 21°C | MAX 26°C

FORECAST
Showers late. Mostly cloudy.

Sunrise 5.58 am
Sunset 6.50 pm
Moonrise 06.11 pm
Moonset 4.53 am

Iconic Central Cottage emporium on MG Road to down shutters

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

YET another of Bengaluru's iconic landmarks is set to become a part of history. The Central Cottage Industries Emporium on MG Road, a Union Ministry of Textiles undertaking, is moving out of its sprawling premises to a smaller outlet in HSR Layout.

Losses over the past few years, compounded by the coronavirus-induced lockdown and subsequent slump in business have forced it to shut shop, said a source familiar with the developments.

Spread across 11,750 sqft on the ground floor and basement of the Shubharam Complex, near Trinity Metro station, the emporium has built a huge reputation for its authentic handicraft products. Pashminas, exotic rugs, lamp shades, stonecraft, woodcraft, furniture, knick-knacks, souvenirs from across India — it had all these and much more.

All items were sourced from artisans in remote corners of the country.

Confirming the development, Pramod Nagpal, Chief General Manager, Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd, told *The New Indian Express* over phone from New Delhi, "The main branch in Bengaluru has been facing losses for some years now. The corona-induced business loss was the last straw. The rent has become too high too." He hastened to add, "None of our staffers will lose their jobs nor will the artisans who make these hand-made products lose the platform we are offering them."

The products will be shifted to its 6,000 sqft premises at the BDA Complex in HSR Layout as well other units across the country. "The staff will also be transferred to our premises in New Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Patna or Kolkata. Products can be ordered online and customers can still get what they want," Nagpal said.

With a tinge of regret, he added that the Bengaluru showroom used to be both a profitable and popular one in the past.

A source familiar with the matter said, "The monthly rent on MG Road comes to Rs 12 lakh, which they were struggling to pay. Most probably, they will vacate by July 24 but could take a week longer to do so."

The branch-in-charge at MG Road, Clara, however, said she had not received any official order in this connection.

The Central Cottage Industries Emporium | PANDRINATH B

The main branch in Bengaluru has been facing losses for some years now. The corona-induced business loss was the last straw. The rent has become too high too

Pramod Nagpal, Chief General Manager, CCICIL

BBMP to get bigger, include IT hubs, villages

Civic body elections likely to be put off

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

IF all goes as planned, the existing Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will become even more 'bruhat'. There is a proposal before the State Government to include a few parts of Bengaluru Rural, especially the IT hubs, into BBMP limits. Meanwhile, the government is set to postpone BBMP elections, scheduled for September 2020.

During the JDS-BJP coalition government in 2007, the then government had merged seven City Municipal Councils (CMC), one Town Municipal Council (TMC) and 111 villages into the then Bangalore Mahanagara Palike. At present, 198 wards spread over 800 sqkm come under BBMP limits. The term of the council ends in September.

Meanwhile, the State government, citing ward delimitation and the new proposed separate act for Bengaluru, approached the High Court in March before the lockdown and sought time for BBMP polls till September.

Last week, the government had issued the final gazette notification on the delimitation of wards coming under BBMP. The draft notification was issued in March 2020. As per the notification, the number of wards remain 198. Based on the 2011 Census, wards are carved out with a restriction of 42,000 to 48,000 people per ward. The wards in core Bengaluru has come down by two to three per assembly constituency, and the number of wards increased in the newly-added zones located on the outskirts.

A senior Urban Development Department official said that gazette notification is complete, and the plan for 198 wards with internal changes within the existing BBMP limits, has been approved. "There is a demand to include some parts of Bengaluru outskirts which fall under Bengaluru Rural district, including Anekal, Sarjapura and some parts outside Whitefield and Mahadevapura, which have IT pockets," he said.

The State government had brought in a separate bill for Bengaluru in the assembly session in March, but it was not passed. It was referred to the Joint House Committee, but due to the lockdown, the committee could not meet. In the draft bill, the number of wards is 225. "Once the committee discusses the issue, we can get some clarity. The number of wards is 225 and the government plans to add some more on the outskirts," the official said.

Meanwhile, the State government is likely to postpone BBMP elections due to the ongoing pandemic.

COVID CURFEW

The usually chock-a-block SP Road in Bengaluru lies completely deserted after it was sealed down on Friday as a Covid preventive measure | VINODKUMAR T

Register a complaint, but where?

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

WHILE there are three known cases of Covid-19 patients succumbing to the disease due to non-availability of timely medical attention, there are many positive patients with co-morbidites who are waiting to be picked up from home and taken to required facilities for treatment.

But, there is no record of the number of such patients available with government agencies. This is not only because test reports arrive late, but also because health workers aren't available to answer patients' phone calls.

One such case is that of Sudhakar (name changed), a resident of Uttarahalli. He gave his sample at a private laboratory for Covid-19 testing on Monday, which came positive on Wednesday. But even till Friday night, no BBMP or health worker had attended to him. Sudhakar is a heart patient and has a five-year-old son. "I have been making frantic calls to all officials possible, asking where I should get admitted, but in vain," he rued.

Meanwhile, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Covid-19 war room, Chief Secretary's office, Health Department and the disaster management cell under the Revenue Department have no record of how many complaints have been registered against erring government officials.

"There are many nodal officers handling multiple things, but there is no centralised control room to handle all cases. This is why there are problems on the ground," admitted a senior health official.

When *The New Indian Express* asked Mayor M Goutham Kumar, he expressed helplessness, saying: "Directions have been issued, but still nothing is happening on the ground. I get 6,000 calls a day and I don't know what to do. Please register an email complaint with the Chief Secretary against the erring officer."

The Chief Secretary's office said that they have not received any complaint against any official, and it is the Covid-19 control room which handles complaints. However, Munish Moudgil, nodal officer, state war room, said that cases are being handled by each department and it is not centralised.

SSLC exam concludes with 33 students testing +ve

PREEJA PRASAD @Bengluru

WITH all eyes on the state government conducting the SSLC examinations amid the pandemic, Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar was all praise that they concluded smoothly on Friday, with 98.06 per cent attendance compared to 98.76 last year.

Kumar told the media during a press conference at Vidhana Soudha, that despite many hurdles, the exam was held in 2,789 centres across the state. "This was a success as we we included 1.2 lakh officials from the health, transport, education and police departments. The transport department provided 3,500 buses to ferry children to exam centres for free," Kumar said.

The 33 students who tested positive during the course of the exam, which began on June 25, will be allowed to appear as fresh candidates during the supplementary in August.

"One of the major lessons we learned from the PUC exam was that students were not able to find their exam rooms or benches. So prior to the SSLC exam, the department sent out the details through SMS to their parents' mobile numbers," Kumar said.

Students celebrate after appearing for their SSLC exam in Belagavi | ASHISHKRISHNA H P

II PUC RESULTS IN AUGUST FIRST WEEK

The II PUC results are likely to be out in the third week of July. SSLC answer scripts would be evaluated between July 13-July 30 and results declared in the first week of August. Teachers aged above 55 and those with health issues would be exempted from evaluation. Kumar also released a documentary on the examination.

EXPRESS READ

BTC gets green light for online betting

Bengaluru: The Bangalore Turf Club on Friday received approval from the state government to conduct online betting. The order, dated July 3, reads "...the government has accorded in-principle approval to conduct online betting. You are hereby directed to implement the above proposal as per existing Act and rules." This comes as good news for BTC, which had applied for betting permission in May. However, with the prevailing Covid-19 situation, there is no clarity when racing will resume at BTC. ENS

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

04th July : Some people I know think it would be a good thing if all politicians used astrology, but I'm not so sure. In France, Presidents de Gaulle and Mitterand were both fans, as was American President Ronald Reagan. And. As we know, here in India, many of our leading politicians have their personal astrologers. We wish them well!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
A large shot of common sense is always just what is required to get you on the straight and narrow. That is why your current planets are perfect for practical tasks, and for putting a little much-needed effort into social and romantic relationships.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
A high proportion of Taureans will be working hard, even putting in some overtime. Those of you planning to put your feet up should keep active, for this is nothing if not a day to accomplish practical tasks. You'll be much happier if you feel that you have actually achieved something worthwhile.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The crucial planetary patterns today are civilised and enlightened, which is rather splendid considering that you are coming up with some fascinating ideas. Everything looks poised for sound, practical decisions and thoroughly sensible conversations!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You need to sit down and talk to people at home, if only to get something off your chest. The key to a successful future is consultation and co-operation, so don't go off on a Cancerian tangent. You may do best to stick to familiar paths, and hone the solutions you've applied already.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
There will be a number of occasions when you must bite your lip if you are to avoid offending someone quite needlessly. Whatever your reasons or motives, you must remember that other people don't necessarily see the world in the same way as you, and you need to respect their points of view.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You may be concerned by personal plans, but all new developments in your chart hinge on professionalism and high finance. It's probably that business and pleasure will begin to merge, perhaps because a loved one shows you the way to fulfil a worldly ambition.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
The next few weeks are likely to be crucial, and quite probably decisive in shaping your personal affairs over the next twelve months. Today's helpful alignments are ideal for rational thought and reasonable decisions, and favourable for family initiatives.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
By some strange celestial quirk, your current planets hold a supremely Scorpionic phase of life; intense, secretive and mystical. Today, though, brings an entirely contradictory pattern of light-hearted conversation. Can you handle it? Yes, but only if you take partners' promises with a touch of healthy scepticism.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
If life is like a card game then I must tell you that your fellow players hold most of the trumps. Therefore, in love, at work, at home and at play, you must think very carefully before making your move. There's no reason why you can't win: it's all in the timing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
A colleague is about to come to your aid, but what takes place over the next few days may not be public knowledge until next week or even the coming month. Whatever your personal situation, this is a day to stay busy and do what you're best at - or risk boredom.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
In many ways you are happy for current conditions to remain as they are, at least for a little while longer. What is decided now could have very far-reaching and practical consequences, probably way beyond your wildest dreams. It now looks as if partners will have to agree and admit that you were right all along!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Intimate developments focus on your personal relationships. You must pay special attention to close emotional connections with particular reference to relations and anyone else who is lucky enough to live with you! They need to feel that you're paying them the attention they deserve.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

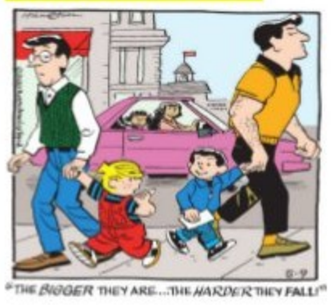
BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

LOCKHORNS

"I WAS HOPING FOR A GOOD TIME TO TELL YOU, BUT I COULDN'T WAIT UNTIL THE JETS WON THE SUPER BOWL."

DENNIS THE MENACE



Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

				7	6	3		
	2	8		3			1	
	6	9		8	5	7	2	
6				1	3		5	
	3						6	
	5		9	6				3
	1	3	8	9		5	7	
	7			4		8	9	
		2	6	5				

EASY

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

7	2	8	3	1	4	9	6	5
3	4	9	5	7	6	8	1	2
6	1	5	9	2	8	3	4	7
1	8	2	6	5	3	4	7	9
5	9	3	8	4	7	1	2	6
4	7	6	2	9	1	5	3	8
2	5	4	1	6	9	7	8	3
9	3	7	4	8	2	6	5	1
8	6	1	7	3	5	2	9	4

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TWHIC

GYMGU

SLENET

VLVEEO

Where did you study? Are you familiar with Daisy's breed?
Are you a cat person or a dog person?
Let me grab my bio for you.
THEY WEREN'T SURE WHICH ANIMAL HOSPITAL TO TAKE THEIR DOG TO, SO THEY DID SOME ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print the answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FORTY TOOTH MENACE SCURRY
Answer: The cat was taking a nap and so were the — REST OF THEM

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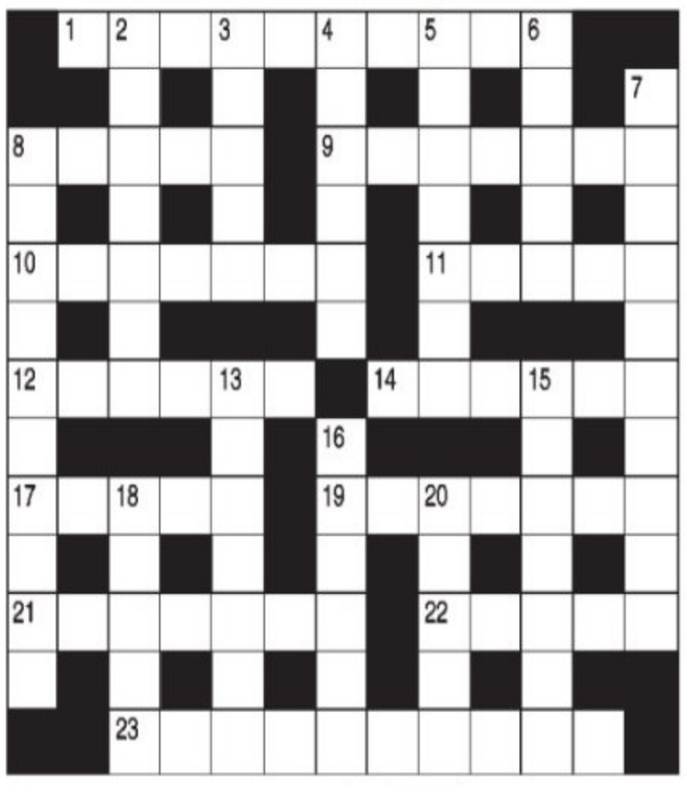
CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Equip an old man to fight the final battle (10)
8 Estella's admirer was given it - the bird (5)
9 Crook taken in hand by a bishop (7)
10 Wanted a knighthood, indeed (7)
11 Levels up the odds (5)
12 The rest of Spain (6)
14 Roar and bluster about the Spanish (6)
17 Allude, one way or the other (5)
19 Hide the port (7)
21 Assign work to a writer (7)
22 Little matters, as Tom found out (5)
23 Well in front, not left behind (5,5)

DOWN

2 A quick reply showing wit or spite perhaps (7)
3 Bill Hill takes part (5)
4 Does get confused about copper Portuguese money (6)
5 See ice does turn into it (7)
6 One is disturbed by it (5)
7 Puzzles resulting in arguments? (10)
8 One without a car needs a trip out (10)
13 Not a straightforward job for woodworkers (7)
15 A boy or a girl (7)
16 Menace of the Mad Hatter (6)
18 The problem before us (5)
20 Straight bit of river to arrive at (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Sorely, 4 Pastor, 9 Astride, 10 Steam, 11 Lasso, 12 Reposed, 13 Petty tyrant, 18 Chatter, 20 Padre, 22 Mitre, 23 Endives, 24 Nectar, 25 System.

Down: 1 Stable, 2 Rites, 3 Laid out, 5 Aesop, 6 Treason, 7 Remedy, 8 Secretaries, 14 Elastic, 15 Rapidly, 16 Acumen, 17 Jetsam, 19 Theta, 21 Divot.

City police and the BBMP collected over ₹67 lakh in fines from more than 33,500 citizens for not wearing mask and flouting social distancing norms, since June 24. This apart, 118 commercial establishments were shut for not taking safety measures, the police said.

Modi to review state BJP unit's efforts in Covid fight

CM, ministers to take part in video conference with PM today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AS the number of Covid-19 cases continues to surge in the state, PM Narendra Modi and BJP president J P Nadda will review the Karnataka BJP unit's work to assist the government in its fight against the pandemic during a 90-minute video conference on Saturday evening.

The PM and Nadda will be apprised of the work done by the state unit to contain the spread of Covid-19 and how the party has helped people during the lockdown, said BJP MLC and general secretary N Ravi Kumar. "They will be updated on initiatives taken by the party unit to create awareness and distribution of masks and medicines," Ravi said. CM B S Yediyurappa, BJP state unit president Nalin Kumar Kateel, deputy CMs, Union ministers and senior leaders from will be part of the interaction.

Ravi said the state unit distributed 49 lakh ration kits, over 1.50 crore food packets, over one crore masks, medicines, and had also helped migrant workers. "The party and the government are working in coordination to take the Centre's initiatives forward," Ravi added. The party central leadership's initiative is to ensure that both the government and party units work in close coordination to fight the pandemic.

Though the video conference is mainly intended to discuss the party's initiatives, the increasing number of cases in the state too may come up for discussion as Karnataka, which had managed the situation well in the beginning, has witnessed a surge in cases in the last few weeks.

Barricades placed near Ulsoor Metro Station to seal the area | PANDARINATH B

City MLAs, MPs to meet CM

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa has called for an emergency meeting of city MLAs and MPs at 4pm Monday, in a bid to build consensus for concerted action on battling the spread of Covid-19. It may be recalled that the CM had held a similar meeting with city MLAs on June 26, which was well attended. This time, only BJP MLAs and MPs are likely to be present.

One critical issue that is expected to be discussed is whether a lockdown is necessary, or more restrictions are needed, which was discussed at last week's meeting too.

Basavangudi MLA Ravi Subramanya told TNIE, "Earlier, the constituency was recording one or two cases a day, but now we are getting 12-15 cases a day. I am going to suggest hard measures like more restrictions, but we also need to keep the economy in mind."

Central MP PC Mohan said, "I will ask for more restrictions, because inter-district travel needs to be regulated. There is too much movement in Bengaluru and people from all parts of the state tend to use the city as a transit point."

Former Home Minister Ramalinga Reddy said, "We will not participate in the meeting this time, but what I said last time holds good – random testing has to begin and more facilities need to be available to deal with the sick. Perhaps they could consider using marriage halls or other such facilities in the suburbs, where large numbers can be accommodated and food and treatment logistics can be arranged."

The meeting will also discuss city development issues, and will be held at CM's home office. MLAs S R Vishwanath, S Raghu, Ravi Subramanya Arvind Limbavali besides ministers C N Ashwath Narayan, Suresh Kumar, R Ashok, Bryrati Basavaraj, MPs Tejasvi Surya and P C Mohan are expected to attend the meeting.

'Pandemic funds misappropriated'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

OPPOSITION leader and former CM Siddaramaiah accused the State government of misappropriating funds released for Covid-19 management. At a press conference on Friday, the Congress leader said that demands of the Public Accounts Committee to inquire into the alleged misappropriation is being stonewalled by Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri.

Siddaramaiah accused the government of procuring medical equipment at double the market price, thus causing heavy losses to the exchequer. He demanded a thorough inquiry, and urged the government to release a white paper on expenditure on the pandemic.

"Of ₹3,320 crore released by the finance department, ₹2,200 crore have been used to procure equipment but the State government has paid almost double the market price. There is no account for around ₹815 crore," he said.

Siddaramaiah released numbers from an affidavit the State government is said to have filed before the High Court, on medical equipment bought so far to fight the infection, and the cost. The State paid ₹120 crore for 1,000 ventilators, priced at ₹4 lakh each, which puts the actual cost at ₹40 crore. "₹150 crore has been paid for 4,89,000 PPE kits, which cost only ₹995 per kit. This brings the total to ₹48.65 crore, as per market price, and ₹40 crore has been spent to procure 10 lakh masks, which cost ₹20 crore," Siddaramaiah said. He said the expenditure should have ideally cost only ₹1,163.65 crore.

EXPRESS READ

Assembly secretariat told to reinstate official

The HC has directed the Karnataka Legislative Assembly to reinstate S Murthy as Secretary within three weeks, subject to the result of disciplinary proceedings against him. Justice P B Bhajanthri issued the order while disposing the petition filed by Murthy questioning the order passed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly suspending him from services on December 27, 2018, on charges of financial irregularities. Observing that the petitioner's explanation to the charges were not considered, he was kept under suspension for the last one-and-a-half years, and was being paid subsistence allowance without extracting work, which amounts to a burden on the state exchequer, the judge said, adding that the suspension period should be regulated on completion of proceedings. The judge permitted the KLA to file application for modification of the order dated September 4, 2019, which restrained the inquiring authority from passing the order.

Ravi rubbishes rumours of ministers' secret meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chikkamagaluru

REVENUE Minister R Ashoka and Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar's visit to Chikkamagaluru earlier this week fuelled speculation of a secret meeting of senior ministers in the government. But Tourism Minister CT Ravi, who is also Chikkamagaluru district-in-charge minister, has rubbished the speculation as "rumours".

Ravi said that though Ashoka and Shettar were in the district on Wednesday for official engagements, they did not meet each other and had stayed at separate resorts.

Ashoka, whose birthday was on Wednesday, had arrived in Chikkamagaluru on Tuesday night and stayed at Primrose Villa Resort near Pandaravalli, on the slopes of Mullayanagiri hill range. On Wednesday, he visited a site identified for constructing the new deputy commissioner's office complex on Saganipura Road. He stayed overnight at the same resort before leaving for Bengaluru on Thursday.

Shettar arrived in Chikkamagaluru from Shivamogga on Wednesday, and stayed overnight at a separate resort. On Thursday, he visited the Amble Industrial Area on the outskirts and later held a review meeting at the ZP auditorium with stakeholders on the growth of industries in the district. Minister Ravi was also in Chikkamagaluru on those days.

The presence of three senior ministers in the town on the same day led to speculation of a secret meeting at a resort. Some senior ministers in the government are said to be unhappy over not getting due prominence.

Ashoka was temporarily made in-charge of city's Covid management when Minister Dr K Sudhakar was in quarantine after his family members tested positive. However, Sudhakar resumed his responsibilities this week. "Party workers honoured Ashoka at the party office on his birthday. I was there too. Nothing more than that," Ravi added.

CRIME PATROL

Prostitution racket busted, 3 held

The CCB rescued 27 women and arrested three men after busting an alleged sex racket in Puttenahalli on Thursday night. Police arrested Yogesh, the prime accused, and two customers Ayaz and Paratullah. Police said they raided the place on Thursday. "Yogesh promised jobs to women and brought them to the city. Among the rescued girls, nine are from Nepal, nine from Punjab, four from Delhi, two from Maharashtra and one each from Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh," the police added.

Four held for killing history-sheeter

Jalahalli police have arrested a gang of four men for their alleged involvement in the murder of history-sheeter Subramani alias Subbu. The accused are Gajendra, Ravi, Shashidar, and Naveen, all history-sheeters. Police said the gang killed Subbu over some financial dispute. He was riding a bike on June 26 when the gang attacked him. Based on a CCTV camera footage, police arrested the gang.

Gold's Gym

Notice

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

We regret to inform you that due to the unprecedented onset of COVID19, **Gold's Gym Indiranagar, Bengaluru** has discontinued operations. We request all members to apply for refunds on or before **12th July 2020**.

We value our members and an request them to send their refund applications via email to: **customer.care@goldsgym.in**

Please note that **12th July 2020** will be the last day for the acceptance of terms of the application of refunds.

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA
(An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
Bahawalpur House, Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi-110001

ADMISSION NOTICE 2020

National School of Drama, a premier theatre institute of the country, invites applications for admission to one year residential certificate course for the academic year 2020-21, commencing from September 2020 at NSD, Centres mentioned below:

1. Bengaluru centre - one year residential certificate course in Acting.
2. Sikkim centre - one year residential certificate course in dramatic arts.
3. Tripura centre - one year residential certificate course in theatre in education
4. Varanasi centre - one year residential certificate course in Indian classical theatre

The online application forms will be available from 4, July, 2020. Last date for submission of online application form is 31, July, 2020.

Please visit our website https: // www.centeradmission.nsd.gov.in or www.nsd.gov.in for complete information about Admission Process. All Applicants are required to visit the website regularly as all subsequent corrigendum/ Addendum/ Updates will only be uploaded on the website.

Director
DAVP 09130/11/0002/2021 National School of Drama

POSSESSION NOTICE
[UNDER RULE -8(1)] (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

WHEREAS The undersigned being the authorised officer of the Manipal Housing Finance Syndicate Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (second) Ordinance, 2002 (Ord. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 08/01/2020 calling upon the borrowers Mr. Siddesh P.U and Mrs. Gayathri K.T to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 92,72,414/- (Rupees Ninety Two lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Four Hundred and Fourteen only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and public in general that the under signed has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said ordinance read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 29th day of June of the year 2020.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manipal Housing Finance Syndicate Limited for an amount of Rs. 92,72,414/- and interest thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the site No. 49, situated at Gidadakonenahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Tq Bengaluru Dist, now comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No. 72, Khatha No. 708/49, admeasuring 1200 sq.ft. along with a housing unit measuring 3100 sq.ft and bounded by East: Road, West: Site No. 30, North: Site No. 48 and South: Site No. 50

For MANIPAL HOUSING FINANCE SYNDICATE LIMITED
'MANIPAL HOUSE', MANIPAL - 576104

Place: Bengaluru Sd/-
Date: 29/06/2020 **AUTHORISED OFFICER**

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Tumkur Grain Merchants Co-op Bank Ltd.,
Head Office : B.H. Road, Tumkur-572103, Karnataka,
Phone : 0816-2257636 / 4021102-103, Fax : 0816-2255905,
Email : ho@hotmail.com, tgmcb.ho@gmail.com, Website : tgmcbank.com,

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1)] (For Immovable property)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Tumkur Grain Merchants Co-Op Bank Ltd.,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice dated **16.12.2019** calling upon the borrower. **M/S. G M Developers** And **Builders Proprietor T G Mruthyunjaya,** No. 158, 78th Cross, 8th Main, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003 Personal Guarantee **Smt. Gayathri Mruthyunjaya** W/o T G Mruthyunjaya, # 305, 3rd Floor, Renaissance Regalia, 15th Cross, 6th Main, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003. To Repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.5,69,30,000/- (Rupees Five Crore Sixty Nine Lakh Thirty Thousand only)** as on **16.12.2019** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **26th day of June of the year 2020.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Tumkur Grain Merchants Co-Op Bank Ltd, Rajajinagar Branch, Bangalore,** for an amount **Rs.5,69,30,000/- (Rupees Five Crore Sixty Nine Lakh Thirty Thousand only)** as on **16.12.2019** plus interest from **17.12.2019** together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc., till the date of realization.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property: (Details of Hypothecated assets and details of mortgaged properties of the Borrower)

All that piece and parcel of the Hotel Building bearing Katha No. New 19 (old 189) & its PID No. 27-12-19, which is situated at 6th Cross, Gandhinagar, Bangalore Ward No. 27-Gandhinagar, Bangalore measuring 45 X 75 feet totally measuring 3375 Sq feet and building thereon bounded on: East by: Property belongs to S N Ramachandra, West by : Property belongs to Kuppuswamy Naidu, North by : 6th Cross Road, South by : Property belongs to Sundaram Iyer.

Date : 26.06.2020 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Tumkur Grain Merchants Co-Op Bank Ltd.,**

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorised Officer of **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited** hereinafter referred to as "**Arcil**") is a securitization and Reconstruction company incorporated under the companies Act ,1956 and registered with the Reserve Bank of India under section 3 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of security interest Act,2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and whereas the Borrower/Co-Borrowers as mentioned in column.2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from Karnataka Bank ., and whereas Arcil has acquired the financial assets relating to the loan accounts mentioned in column 2 of the below mentioned chart and Whereas Arcil, being the secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice calling upon the Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No.2, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reason.

Sl. No.	Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor Name / Loan Account No.	Total Outstanding in ₹ / Due date
1	**Mr. KNB Sharma, S/o Late K.K.N.Sharma / Mrs. M.S.Sheela, W/o K.N.B Sharma / Mr. Chandrashekaran J, S/o Jagadisan V / Loan Account No. PSTL-1861**	**₹ 43,05,329/- as on 25.06.2020**

Secured Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Muncipal No. 11/12-1, Old No.11/12 situated at 1st Cross Road, Deepanjalinagar, Previously 8th Cross, 1st Main Road, Deevatigeramanahalli, Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.41, Bangalore, **measuring East to West:** 30 feet **and North to South:** 30 feet, totally measuring 900 Sq.ft with ACC roof building measuring 600 sq.ft and bounded on the **East:** Road, **West:** Mori, **North:** Conservancy, **South:** Previously remaining property, now private property.

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers, as mentioned in Column No. 2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in Column No. 3, against the respective Borrower/Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective Loan account as on the date shown in Column No.3. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with further interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, Arcil shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above. Steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder.

Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date: 04.07.2020 **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd.**

ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD.
Registered Office: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West), Mumbai-400028. Tel: + 91 2266581300. **www.arcil.co.in**
Branch Address: Unit No.305, Kedia Arcade, 3rd Floor, No.92 Infantry Road, Bangalore-560001. **Tel: 080 25598054/55. CIN: U6599MH2002PLC134884**

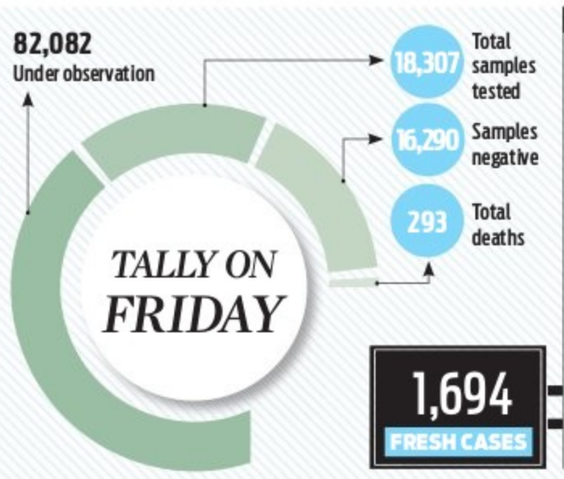
The state government has formed four state-level task forces to monitor the fight against Covid. Each team will be headed by a senior officer, who will look after the availability of Covid Care Centres, dedicated health centres and hospitals, and allotment of human resources

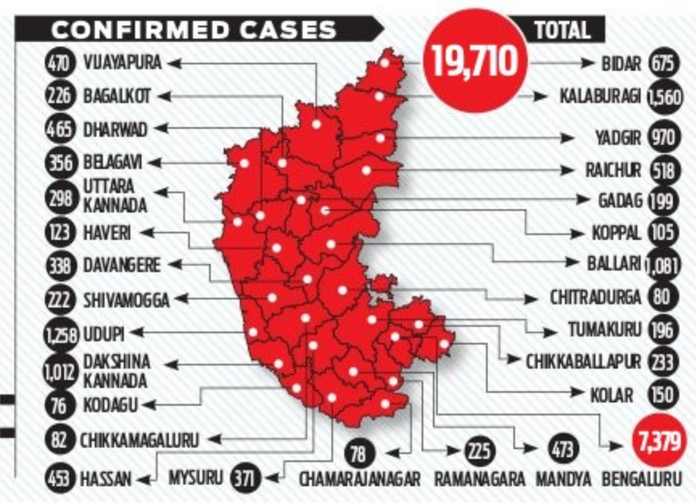
471 NEW RECOVERIES

8,805 TOTAL RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too





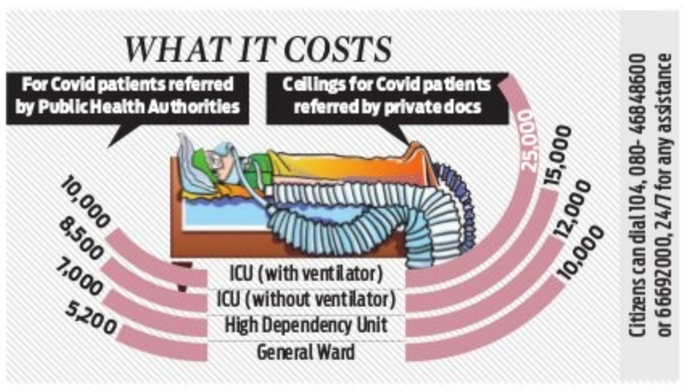
DENIED TREATMENT, 3 PATIENTS DIE

Despite government order, private hospitals say beds, ICUs full, govt facilities seek Covid certificate

IFFATH FATHIMA & RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

DESPITE a government order asking private hospitals not to deny treatment to Covid or non-Covid patients, many continue to suffer and even die in several instances.

A 40-year-old software manager, Asadullah, was breathless around 11 pm on Thursday. He was rushed to a private clinic on Tannery Road, but doctors asked the family to take him to a bigger hospital as they did not have facilities. The family rushed him to a private hospital in Vivek Nagar, then to a hospital on Queens Road, to another hospital on Millers Road and to government hospitals in Shivajinagar and KR Market. But none admitted him. While private hospitals said they did not have beds, government facilities wanted a Covid test report.



Zoya, his daughter, said, "From 2 pm to 10 pm, we took him to different hospitals. My father's condition was very bad, but despite seeing him suffering, they did not take him in. As we were ferrying him to seven hospitals, we kept calling several hospitals, but all of them said the beds were full. Around 10.30 pm, we reached a private hospital in Basvanagudi. They took him in, but left him unattended. The staff said that he was critical and they could not do much. Then, my father died. He was the only breadwinner of our family."

In another case, a 53-year-old man denied treatment at a private hospital in Rajajinagar died. "My friend's father, who went for a daily walk in the park, collapsed around 7.45 am. We rushed him to a hospital, but the doctors refused to treat him and he died," said Raghu Poojari, a civil contractor.

On Wednesday morning, a 43-year-old man, suffering from a chest pain but denied treatment at nine hospitals, died. His family took him around in an ambulance all night on Tuesday, but none of the hospitals accepted him.

"Around 11 pm on Tuesday, he developed achest pain. It took a long time for us to get an ambulance," said a relative of the deceased.

"We got the ambulance around midnight and went to nine government and private hospitals. But all of them said either beds or ICUs were full. As his wife, my father-in-law and brother-in-law were in the ambulance, I was calling other hospitals asking them to admit him, but they did not," he added.

"Finally, he passed away around 6.30 am in the ambulance while on the way to a hospital which we had already visited. We got a Covid test done later and it was negative," he said.

HOW UNLOCK 2.0 WILL UNFOLD

Karnataka on Friday issued a set of guidelines under Unlock 2.0 with the idea of increasing economic activities and also ensuring that cases do not rise. The guidelines will be in force till July 31, except in containment zones. Apart from Bengaluru Urban and Rural, DCs and heads of disaster management committees of all districts have been directed to form 14 teams.

Shifting of patients: Ensure there are enough ambulances, cross-check with ICMR portal and shift patients to Covid Care Centres, hospitals within 3 hrs

Containment zones: Implement containment zone rules, strict vigilance in buffer zones. Correct number and address should be given to police and health officials. Accurate details should be given to trace primary and secondary contacts

Caring for the dead: Bodies must be handled in humane way; vehicles should be available, kin must be informed of rites done; medical report be given to RGUHS

More Covid centres, hospitals: Increase capacity of hospitals and hospital management; resource team should be appointed

Tracing: Early tracing of contacts, vulnerable contacts within 24 hours, ensure proper mobile numbers are given, upload all data on portal

Testing: Rapid testing of primary contacts, those referred by doctors, SARI, ILI cases, police and others in contact with positive patients

Quarantine: Form booth and panchayat-level disaster management teams, trace those who escape quarantine on the same day. If they violate norms a second time, file FIR and shift to institutional quarantine. Interact with those in home quarantine, ensure they have Aarogya Setu app. List of hotspots should also be given to officials and people

Social Distancing: A must. Keep close watch on markets, bus stops, APMC and other public places. Form ward, GP committees and take strict action

Mother and child care: Ante, post-natal care should be given. District War Room should take charge

Inter-state, intra-state travel: Proper coordination with other districts, ensure those who travel by rail, air are registered on Seva Sindhu portal, download Aarogya Setu app

OFFICERS FIGHTING COVID IN BENGALURU

COVID CONTACT TRACING
Nodal officer Anbukumar, Special Commissioner, Administration, BBMP: 9449892000

COVID CONTAINMENT ZONES
Dr Basavaraj, Special Commissioner, Revenue, BBMP: 9480685866

Tahsildars	Contacts
Lokesh K S	7624999796
Nayan S L	9663034399
Pavan Kumar S	9886725332
Hanumanta N Srihari	8147750780

COVID CARE CENTRES
Sarfaraz Khan, Joint Commissioner, Health, BBMP: 9448111066

Tahsildars	Contacts
Rashmi U	9483764891
Chaitra T	9945304455
Keertana H S	9740564609
Shruthi M Mallappa G	9916844083
Basavaraj T	8745932368
Yogita C K	9742979854
Tirupati	9019747083
Suresh M	9964394000
Gururaj Mariyappa C	7795142631
Prashant K Patil	8105999707

COVID TESTING
Dr Ravikumar Surpur, Commissioner, Social Welfare: 9480685837

Tahsildar	Contact
Harshavardhan J P	9902229213
Anil K Badigar	8904669613
Manish S	9900982706
Mahesh S P	8296517144

FEAR IN FRONTLINE

KIMS doc complained of faulty PPE, now +ve

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

A doctor at the Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences, Bengaluru, had raised an alarm about faulty PPE kits and shortage of N95 masks, but her concerns were ignored by the hospital administration. Now, the doctor herself tested positive on Thursday, according to her relative. Taking note of this, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha brought the issue to the attention on Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Twitter. Tagging the minister, the MP tweeted, "For your information and I feel, it is a genuine concern."

"Amulya Gowda treated Covid patients at KIMS. Last week, she raised an alarm about faulty PPE kits and shortage of N95 masks but the administrative medical officer at KIMS chastised her and since then she has been buying her own N95 masks. On Thursday, she tested positive. She appealed to the hospital authorities and raised her genuine concerns but she was harassed again" the her cousin Bhargav Gowda said on Facebook.

"This isn't about my sister, many doctors at KIMS and doctors all around the country are facing harsh backlash from the management and government officials...We, as a system, have failed the doctors," he says in the post.

A BBMP worker sanitises Briand Square as Covid cases continue to rise in Bengaluru on Friday | VINOD KUMAR T

Dr D H Ashwath Narayana, medical superintendent, KIMS, however, denied the allegations of faulty PPE kits and shortage of N95 masks. He said that doctors, nurses and ward boys wear PPE kits in the Covid ward of the hospital where coronavirus patients are treated.

"We have got government-approved standard quality PPE kits and FFP standard N95 masks. World over, healthcare workers are getting infected and they blame authorities when it happens. Some of them also privately practise and may have been infected there or from anywhere else outside, as is the case with Covid patients. Despite using PPEs, doctors can sometimes get infected and that may not be the fault of the PPE kits. ," Dr Ashwathnarayan stressed.

New ICMR rules said that doctors who are wearing PPE kits and test negative need not quarantine themselves. But what about those without PPE kits?

IGICH doctor

OPD docs want PPE kits, IGICH chief says no need

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

DOCTORS in the Out Patient Department section of Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH) say they are scared about contracting Covid-19 as they are working without PPE kits. The emergency, casualty and staff in the Covid-19 ward are however given PPE kits. Three of the staff have already tested positive.

"We have children coming in with fever, cold and cough, who are screened in the OPD and then shifted to the Covid-19 suspect ward. If they test positive they are shifted to a designated hospital. We are not denying admission to anyone but we need to keep ourselves safe," said a doctor seeking anonymity. The OPD staff — be it doctors, nurses, group D workers — wear only N95 masks.

Moreover, with change in quarantine rules, the doctors end up working without observing a period of self-isolation. Owing to shortage of staff, the earlier quarantine period of 14 days has been relaxed. "New ICMR guidelines said that those doctors who are wearing PPE kits and test negative need not quarantine themselves. But what about those without PPE kits?" the doctor asked.

With insufficient quarantine rooms, doctors are at times asked to go into home quarantine, thereby risking their family.

However, Dr Sanjay KS, director of IGICH, denied that there is any shortage of PPE kits. "Those who are on Covid-19 duty in the ward are given PPEs. Those in OPDs do not require them and wear surgical gloves and masks which is sufficient. The casualty and emergency section staff also wear PPEs," Dr Sanjay said.

Covid claims 21 lives in Karnataka in one day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICES @ Bengaluru

THE Covid pandemic claimed 21 lives in Karnataka on Friday, the highest number of deaths the state has seen in a single day, taking the toll to 293.

The state also saw the highest number of positive cases for a day at 1,694, while taking the total to 19,710. Bengaluru added 994 cases, again the highest for the day, to its tally of 7,173 positive cases.

As officials have not revealed the source of infection of people who test positive over the past three days, there have been fears of community transmission in the city.

Of the people who died, five were from Bengaluru Urban, three each from Chikkaballapur and Kalaburagi, two each from Vijayapura and Shivamogga and one each from Hassan, Davanagere, Raichur, Bidar and Bengaluru Rural.

As on Friday, Karnataka had reported 19,710 cases, of which 10,608 (53.8%) were active. Of Bengaluru's 7,173 cases, 6,297 (87.7%) were active. Bengaluru has contributed 59.3% of the state's total active cases.

On the brighter side, 18,307 samples were tested on Friday, the highest for a single day. In all, 471 people were discharged, taking the total number of cured to 8,805.

Bosch's Bidadi plant hit by 62 cases

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

THE Bosch India plant at Bidadi in Ramanagara has 62 Covid-positive cases of the 768 employees tested, stated an internal email, of which *TNIE* has a copy. The communication, dated July 2, states that one patient has recovered, while 182 primary contacts have been quarantined. The testing has started in phases and will cover all employees.

District Health Officer Dr Niranjan, however, said there are only 48 cases at the plant. "The unit has to be sealed until the premises are sanitised. Positive patients have been admitted in Bengaluru and we are conducting primary and secondary contact tracing in Ramanagara," he said.

The anxious workers don't want to report to work. "We want them to give us leave and seal the factory. If we raise this issue, they will suspend us. The government is not supporting workers, while union leaders are siding with the management. The company is only asking us to maintain distance and wear mask," said a worker on condition of anonymity.

When *TNIE* contacted Bosch, company representatives neither confirmed nor denied that the unit had 62 positive cases. In an email reply, Bosch India stated, "We are currently aware of a number of cases at Bosch Bidadi. The affected associates are in quarantine. We have also informed respective authorities... An interdisciplinary team of experts is constantly monitoring the situation... Deep cleaning procedures and sanitisation were carried out in select office spaces at our Bidadi location. Bidadi plant was closed for two days starting June 26, 2020."

KEEPING IT INDOORS

Beds were placed in a new Covid facility set up at Koramangala Indoor Stadium, Bengaluru, on Friday | MEGHANA SASTRY

TRUST IN TRADITION

Ayurveda for Covid patients? Clinical trials show +ve results

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

AS a large number of patients are being admitted to the Victoria Hospital, it is exploring the option of Ayurvedic intervention and carried out clinical trials on 10 Covid patients with mild and moderate symtoms who showed good results.

The trials were held between June 7 and 25, and all 10 patients recovered. But the Ayurvedic treatment was in addition to regular treatment.

Dr Smitha S Segu, Nodal Officer, Covid Core Committe, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), said, "Ayurvedic and Ayush trials are going on. But this is in addition to regular treatment, and it has shown some improvements in the patients' blood reports as well."

The Ayurvedic treatment was initiated by Dr Giridhara Kaje, MD and Chief Physician, Prashanthi Ayurvedic Centre, Rajajinagar. He said, "I had written to the government and was initially approved by the BMCRI ethics committee. We conducted clinical trials on 10 patients and it showed good results. The medicine was given to even comorbid patients."

Two Ayurvedic tablets were given thrice a day. "So far, I have treated thousands of patients with viral diseases. The two medicines that we administered on Covid patients are broad-spectrum, anti-viral drugs," he added.

The patients who were symptomatic improved and had no symptoms in four days, while their results were negative by the ninth day. "I have approached the government to treat over 200 people," he said.

Dr Jayanthi CR, Director-cum-Dean, BMCRI, said, "The treatment is still to be validated in larger trials with more patients."

Corona patient's body lies on road for three hours in rain

BENGALURU: A 63-year-old Covid-19 positive person collapsed on the road and died at Hanumantha Nagar on Friday, and the body lay there drenched in the rain for three hours.

An ambulance, which was called three hours earlier after the patient started to feel breathless, shifted the body to a hospital.

His family members said they tried calling health officials, but nobody responded. Reacting to the incident, Revenue Minister R Ashoka said it was very tragic and unfortunate.

There will be no such delay and patients will be immediately sent to hospitals, he added. BBMP Commissioner B H Anil Kumar said, "The incident is horrific and we will take stern action." ENS

Dr Arja Srikanth, state nodal officer for Covid-19 in Andhra Pradesh, has said 62.5 per cent Covid-19 patients are in the age group of 16 to 45 years and 20.34 per cent are aged between 46 and 60 years

A village in Mysuru district sets up a barricade to prevent spread of Covid | EXPRESS

Villages put up walls, ban residents from going out to work

K SHIVAKUMAR @Mysuru

WITH a sharp spike in Covid-19 cases and many positive cases reported in villages, the rural population, gripped by fear and anxiety, has barricaded village roads to keep outsiders at bay.

Community leaders and village headmen have banned labourers going for work in neighbouring villages, towns and cities, nor are outsiders allowed to work in their vicinity.

Many villages, like Y K Mole, Amachawadi, Basavapura, Siddayyanapura and others, have stopped agricultural labourers going out to work. There are also reports that a fine of Rs 5,000 is to be imposed on those defying the directions of village heads. They have also imposed curbs on people moving in groups, violating social distance, and been advised not to take up jobs like unloading of vegetables and fruits from trucks from neighbouring states.

Siddaraju of Y K Mole told *The New Indian Express* that village heads have decided not to allow labourers to work in neighbouring villages or towns. He said that hundreds of them are back home, and a few are working in their own fields as they don't want to defy the orders.

He said the initiative was taken in the interest of the people, and not to snatch away their livelihood. However, he said they may not reconsider relaxation in the near future as the past week has seen a big surge in cases. Farm labourers are helpless as there is a similar cap in most of the villages.

Putta, a labourer, said they could not go against the village's decision, though they have enough work. He said they have already been hit hard by the Covid infection and lockdown, and curbs on work will further hit their livelihood.

Community leaders from Uppara, Nayaka and other sections have made similar announcements and even got their streets barricaded with shrubs and wooden logs.

Khan, a resident of Nagavalli, said that no one from his village wanted to take a risk and had been advised not to go out for work to nearby towns or villages. Youngsters are also keeping track of poeple's movements, especially as there are cases without travel history.

On the other hand, farmers are facing a problem harvesting crops. Shivamurthy wanted to bring labourers in vehicles from faraway places as locals have decided not to work till there is a respite from the virus infection.

"I would not have sowed turmeric if I had foreseen acute scarcity of labour. How can farmers survive without labour?" he asked.

Ban orders across dist

The Mysuru district administration will impose prohibitory orders from 6pm to check the movement of people. In Chamarajanagar, curfew begins at 4 pm, adding to the people's worry as they will have to wind up work and leave before the deadline.

TAMIL NADU CROSSES 1,00,000-MARK

State reports 4,329 cases and 64 deaths in a single day; patients getting Ayurveda, Siddha treatment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

WITH 4,329 fresh cases of Covid-19 being reported on Friday, Tamil Nadu crossed the 1 lakh-mark. The state's tally currently stands at 1,02,721. Chennai alone recorded 2,082 new cases and 33 deaths on Friday, said a medical bulletin issued by the Directorate of Public Health.

While Chennai's adjoining districts also recorded a spike in fresh cases – Chengalpattu (330), Tiruvallur (172), Kancheepuram (121) -- the other significant spike came from Madurai (287), Theni (126), Tiruvannamalai (151), and Vellore (145). Ariyalur and Perambalur were the only districts that did not report a fresh case on Friday, the bulletin added. A total of 2,357 people were discharged following treatment on Friday in the State, of which 1,164 were in Chennai, said the bulletin.

The state also reported 64 deaths on Friday, taking the toll to 1,385. Among the deceased, six people did not have comorbidities, said the bulletin.

Health Minister C Vijayabaskar said, the State was working towards laying oxygen pipelines and installing oxygen boilers with a capacity of 40 kilo litres, in those hospitals. This was being done as at least 30 per cent of people infected by the virus require oxygen support, either intermittently, or in high flow, the minister added.

The minister was speaking to reporters post inspecting the facility at Government Stanley Medical College Hospital here. He added that the hospital would be equipped with 800 additional beds, thus increasing the total beds to 1,600.

The minister added that integrated treatment with Siddha and Ayurveda medicine were also being provided at the hospitals. Meanwhile, the Chennai corporation is looking to increase its fever camps from the existing 514 to 680, in coming weeks, said commissioner G Prakash, adding that the recovery rate in the city had risen to 62 per cent.

A health worker collects swab samples from a man in Hyderabad on Friday | VINAY MADAPU

16 OF FAMILY TEST +VE, KAYAMKULAM SEALS ITSELF

Alappuzha: Kayamkulam is in a precarious situation after 16 members of a family tested positive for Covid-19 in five days, prompting the authorities to declare the municipality as a hotspot. A 68-year-old vegetable vendor of Kayamkulam market and his daughter, 46, had contracted the virus on June 29 and 30, respectively. In the next three days, 14 of his family members and relatives, including two children aged eight and one-and-a-half, too tested positive. Municipal chairman N Sivadasan said the situation in Kayamkulam is grim. A list of his primary contacts is being prepared. **ENS**

> As many as 5,000 special camps will be held across the district to test people for coronavirus. People will be tested for cold and fever, among other symptoms
>
> SP Velumani, Tamil Nadu minister

BSY sets aside Rs 109 cr for oxygen pipelines

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

ON THE day leader of opposition Siddaramaiah demanded that the particulars of funds donated to the Chief Minister's Covid-19 relief fund be made public, B S Yediyurappa has ordered that Rs 109.10 crore from the fund should be set aside to set up medical gas pipelines with a high flow oxygen system in district and taluk government hospitals.

In a press release, Yediyurappa's secretary Dr S Selvakumar said that the total donations towards the relief fund stood at Rs 299.50 crore.

This apart, the state government has received Rs 35 crore as donations to the State Disaster Management Authority. In all, Rs 334.50 crore received in donations have been set aside for managing the Covid-19 pandemic in the state.

Of this, Rs 109.10 crore has been released to the health and family welfare department to set up the pipeline system.

In addition, Rs 31.62 crore from donations made by various corporates as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility initiative to the disaster management authority, has been released to the health department to procure ventilators among others.

Covid patients' homes to be assessed before isolation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THOSE under home quarantine should not have comorbid conditions such as kidney disease requiring dialysis, heart disease, stroke, tuberculosis, cancer, HIV, and should not be immune-compromised, on steroids or immunosuppressants.

A team from the district health authority or BBMP will visit the house and assess suitability for home isolation and a tele-consultation link will be established. The patients must have a separate well-ventilated room for isolation with an attached toilet. The caregivers must also wear N95 masks when in the same room with the ill person. Utensils used by the patient should be cleaned while wearing gloves, the guidelines say.

Home isolation will be for 17 days after the symptoms start showing, or the date of sampling. They can be released if there is no fever and other symptoms for 10 days, the oxygen saturation level is above 95 per cent and respiratory rate less than 24 per minute.

A centralised system is being created for allocation of beds in hospitals and a nodal officer has been appointed to oversee it. Detailed guidelines for home isolation and last rites of dead persons have been prepared, minister Sudhakar said. There will be hyper-local management to contain Covid-19 with task force committees at the booth level. In Bengaluru, 8,800 such committees will be set up, he said.

"Booth-level task force committees will be the basic structural and functional unit for Covid management. They will include BBMP or Municipal Administration staff in urban areas and Gram Panchayat staff in rural areas. A nodal officer has been appointed to oversee this," the minister said. Local management will be strengthened for effective monitoring and surveillance of Covid cases, he added.

Expert panel on e-classes to submit report on Monday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE STATE government on Friday informed the Karnataka High Court that the Expert Committee On Technology Enabled Education would submit its report on Monday.

Advocate General Prabhuling K Navadgi made the submission when a division bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Nataraj Rangaswamy was hearing a batch of petitions questioning the ban on online classes.

Navadgi submitted that after an initial ban, the state had placed on record that an interim arrangement permitted online classes based on guidelines issued by the Ministry of Human Resources Development, until the expert panel submitted its report. The state would take a decision after the committee submits its report on Monday, he said.

Arguing on behalf of the petitioners—CBSE and ICSE schools—senior advocate Uday Holla said the ban on online classes was effected under the Education Act, which is not applicable to international schools, and that the government does not have the power to ban online classes conducted by CBSE and ICSE schools. Holla said there was no restriction even in the Centre's guidelines on online classes. Representing the parents, advocate Pradeep Nayak said the state did not have the power to prevent private unaided schools from holding classes online.

EXPRESS READ

Deleted CCTV camera footage recovered in Sathankulam case

Thoothukudi: The deleted CCTV camera footage in the Sathankulam case has been recovered from the hard disc, said CB-CID Inspector General of Police K Shankar, here on Friday. He added that the sleuths have gathered new CCTV camera footage as well. Speaking to media persons, he said: "The investigation into the death of traders P Jeyaraj and J Beniks is completely neutral, and people need not bother about rumours. We are on the hunt for head constable Muthuraj." **ENS**

Can't agree with Centre's move: Kerala CM on Italian marines case

T'Puram: Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday said the state could not agree with the Centre's move to drop the case against the Italian marines. "We will inform the Centre of our opinion. There are reports that India failed to raise strong arguments in the case. Now, the country should take strong steps regarding the compensation," he said. Oommen Chandy, who was Kerala CM at the time of the incident, said the Centre committed a criminal lapse in establishing the legality of the case. **ENS**

JUMBO PROBLEMS

Vertical barriers turn dangerous for elephants in southern states

MEERA BHARDWAJ @Bengaluru

VERTICAL barriers are making life hell for elephants, especially calves, when they cross roads and highways in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The heartrending visual of a baby elephant trying to cross a vertical barrier in the Nadugani Ghats calls for introspection and re-think on installing such intrusions in elephant corridors of the Mysore-Nilgiri Biosphere Landscape, which supports one of the largest elephant populations in India and is also home to a diverse range of flora and fauna.

A young calf struggled to climb a road barrier in Nadugani Ghat Road near Vazhikkadavu in the Nilambur corridor area even as truck drivers stopped their vehicles. However, after some time, finally, its watchful mother came to help its baby to cross over the tall barrier. But this is one such case that has come to light.

Calling for wildlife-friendly roads with the removal of high medians and walls in forest areas, activists said in the last few months, incidents have come to light with many elephants and their young ones struggling to cross high barriers. Such eventualities should have been anticipated when constructing vertical intrusions in elephant country.

The elephant calf struggles to cross a vertical barrier in Nadugani Ghat Road

Former minister Jairam Ramesh said, "This shows why our infrastructure should be constructed with utmost thought and concern for wildlife. I appreciate the kindness of the truck drivers who waited till the elephants passed and did not add to their anxiety."

"It is stressful for the family and the babies and one should remember they have the right to passage," adds wildlife veterinarian Dr H S Prayag.

Governments should get together to ensure safe and barrier free roads in this unique landscape of three states. Recently, incidents of elephants getting stuck in high medians, high walls, rail barriers and also getting electrocuted have increased in the southern states and the Centre should take an urgent call on this, opine elephant experts. In Karnataka, high walls have been constructed in the road that traverses the Kudremukh National Park and has time and again, resulted in road kills.

A young tusker was killed on Thursday in Mudumalai area when it was electrocuted due to high-voltage electric fencing just next to a forest. "Atrocities against elephants continue in the country while Project Elephant officials sit mum doing nothing," a concerned conservationist adds.

A forest official adds, "The construction of such guard barriers in elephant country of the south is proving to be dangerous for the survival of elephants. We need special care in wildlife areas and an urgent think over for making roads safe for pachyderms in the Mysore-Nilgiri Biosphere landscape."

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Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with C.E., (World Bank Projects), Nirman Soudha, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.
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EDITORIAL

Break not, pull not anything down, but build. Help, if you can; if you cannot, fold your hands and stand by and see things go on

Swami Vivekananda

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

TIME FOR CENTRE TO OVERHAUL GST SYSTEM

In policymaking, only a few things achieve total success, and a partial one rarely lasts. The torchbearers of the GST should bear that in mind as India's historic indirect tax reform introduced three summers ago is far from reaching any of the stated goals, including the promise of a simplified tax regime, higher revenues or 1-2% addition to the GDP. As it entered its fourth year amid disappointing tax collections and unfulfilled promises, Covid-19 makes the forward journey tougher, though much of its underwhelming performance until recently was due its own making. Tax collections missed estimates, raking in only 78% and 90% of the budgeted targets in FY19 and FY20 respectively, causing severe fiscal distress to both the Centre and states, 60% of whose revenue comes from the GST. Constitutionally, the Centre must honour its commitment of 14% growth in state taxes or provide for the shortfall from compensation cess, which too is short of funds.

Experts believe one of the reasons for the poor show is the GST's very design. It was kicked off with multiple rates, which then was essential to get states on board, but the gradual rate rationalisation leaves a lot to be desired. Eighteen months after former finance minister Arun Jaitley favoured a standard three-rate structure, the official diktat is nowhere to be seen. The system was replete with technical glitches, complicating tax filings and input tax credit claims, but allowed unfair profiteering and fake invoices.

The government must overhaul the system to first clear pending dues and avoid reoccurrence of backlogs. It should simplify the rate structure and stick with it in the medium term to prevent further uncertainty and chaos. Once economic recovery begins, the GST Council should get petroleum products and alcohol under its ambit to ensure uniformity. States will be unwilling to part with it as it dents their own tax revenue, but the Council must make the proposal attractive. Delaying these changes is unacceptable as the economic consequences will last beyond the NDA's time in power.

BRITISH RAJ MENTALITY HAS NO PLACE IN INDIA

The coronavirus pandemic has brought into sharp focus the pathetic state of public healthcare infrastructure and exposed how unprepared the country is in protecting the lives of its citizens. Reports of people being turned away from hospitals are unfortunately becoming more and more common. Measured from this standpoint, the Andhra Pradesh government has been proactive in trying to make medical care available to all. It has been quick to identify and categorise Covid hospitals and supply equipment to treat patients. The launch of 1088 ambulances the other day was timely and the government deserves a pat on the back for keeping its focus firmly on public health.

Having said that, we must point out that there are areas that need immediate attention. Right from the beginning, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has been insisting on humane treatment and has been vocal against stigmatising patients or their families. Yet, stories of people under institutional quarantine paint a different picture. Complaints of rude behaviour of government employees, lack of communication and poor sanitary conditions at the quarantine centres have come in from several places. To be fair, higher officials have acted swiftly on social media posts by the affected people. However, it is an issue that needs to be addressed comprehensively. Otherwise, it could prove counterproductive. Fearing the mental trauma they could face, people will then try to avoid quarantine. In an unprecedented situation like we are in now, it may jeopardise the entire strategy being followed to contain the spread of the virus.

The message of the CM applies equally to the government staff manning the quarantine centres. Harassing people suspected of having contracted the virus is unacceptable. District collectors have roped in counsellors for the quarantined, which is commendable. They also need to educate government staff. The British Raj mentality should have no place in India. We have seen during the lockdown inspirational stories of policemen and doctors going out of their way to serve. That spirit of humanity should be the guiding principle of the government apparatus.

The idea of rule of law has been overturned by the government's attempt to hold on to power, setting a dangerous precedent in the strife-torn state

MANIPUR, A CASE STUDY OF ILLIBERAL DEMOCRACY

PRADIP PHANJOUBAM

Editor, FPSJ Review of Arts and Politics

AMIT BANDRE

The BJP-led coalition government in Manipur, which faced a severe existential crisis recently after three of its legislators resigned and major partner National People's Party walked out, has seemingly weathered the storm for the moment. The NPP has now tamely returned to the BJP fold after its MLAs were whisked away to Delhi to meet BJP and NPP leaders. The Speaker, Y Khemchand, has ensured that the BJP would continue to have a majority by selective application of the Tenth Schedule.

But there are troubles ahead. The first of these is an unrest among the BJP's own legislators, unhappy that there are not enough Cabinet berths left for them. The seeds for this were sowed at the very start of the government's tenure. The March 2017 Manipur Assembly election threw up a hung verdict, with the Congress emerging as the single largest party winning 28 of the 60 seats. The BJP won 21. However, Governor Najma Heptulla invited the BJP, which needed to rope in at least 11 outside MLAs, to form the next government. The BJP managed this, but by buying loyalties with Cabinet berths. As the ceiling on Cabinet size for the state stipulated by the Tenth Schedule is 12 including the chief minister, this is proving very expensive. The BJP ended up giving away seven spots to allies leaving only four for BJP legislators, besides the CM. This underlying discontent remains even after the immediate storm, especially since the next elections are just a year-and-a-half away and many would be contesting against these allies in ministerial positions.

But this is not the only problem in front of the ruling party. As a minority party in power, in its self-preservation bid, the BJP invited eight Congress MLAs to defect to it. The Speaker then refused to act on the disqualification petitions against them under the Tenth Schedule for three-and-a-half years, except for one who was disqualified after the Supreme Court intervened. However, when some of the remaining defectors wanted to return to their original party, he promptly disqualified three of them. A lone Trinamool Congress MLA also wanted to leave the BJP-led alliance, and in this case, the Speaker took up a suo motu case and disqualified him within a day, without even giving the MLA an opportunity to defend himself. It is unlikely that these MLAs will not seek legal intervention. What also needs to be noted is, although a no-confidence motion against the government did not materialise this time, the Assembly will have to be convened for its Summer Session probably sometime in August and this is when trouble can resurface if the mess within the ruling party and the Assembly is not swept clean by then.

Overturned with impunity in all this is the idea of rule of law, and it is a tragedy that the state Assembly and government are responsible for this, setting a precedent that can only be characterised as dangerous in this strife-torn border state. The Manipur case also reminds one of what Fareed Zakaria contended in his influential book *Future of Freedom*. Democracy, he said, can only be meaningful if it is predicated by a culture of liberalism. At its crux, this liberalism is about an innate sense of rectitude that all civilised societies acquire. This manifests more pronouncedly in the treatment of rule of law as sacrosanct. This idea cannot have been better illustrated than in the famous verbal duel in Robert Bolt's play *A Man for all Seasons* between Thomas More and his young assistant William Roper on what an offence against the law is. When More had an opportunity to arrest a known tormentor spying on him, Roper asked him to do so immediately. More refused, saying the man has broken no law. To which a bewildered Roper reminded More that the man has broken God's law. More's retort was classic: "Let God arrest him then," he told Roper. The esteem with which a liberal democracy is expected to hold the idea of rule of law is beautifully encapsulated in this. This is also probably the best picturisation of secularism—defined as separating religion from state.

> As it did not have a majority, the BJP invited eight Congress MLAs to defect to it. The Speaker refused to act on the disqualification petitions against them under the Tenth Schedule for over three years ... But when some wanted to return to their original party, he promptly disqualified three of them

By contrast, in an illiberal society, Zakaria notes, democracy would end up not only reduced to a farce but can even be dangerous. He goes to the extent of saying liberal institutions such as liberal education, courts, free media, etc., can flourish even without democracy, such as in Singapore, but democracy without liberalism can tear nations apart, as it happened in the former Yugoslavia. It is anybody's guess which of these scenarios Manipur would fit in. This is a state where the idea of rule of law has been almost completely done to death, that too outrageously in the highest institution of democracy. This is a state that has brazenly reduced the Tenth Schedule to a convenient tool in the hands of the party in power to either coerce or encourage legislators to defect, whichever profits those in power the most, defeating the very purpose of this legislation when it was conceived.

(phanjoubam@gmail.com)

WHAT CAN INDIAN CUSTOMS DO TO TACKLE IDOL THEFTS?

S VIJAY KUMAR

Co-Founder, India Pride Project and Author of *The Idol Thief*

A pair of beautiful granite *dvarapalas* (door guardians), each nearly five feet tall and weighing a ton—massive Vijayanagara dynasty edifices who had guarded the sanctum since the 15th century. The Pazhuvur Nataraja of similar vintage but cast in bronze. All three were targeted by thieves and exported out of our ports in 2005.

The right-side *dvarapala* had a broken hand while the Nataraja had his whole lower left hand sawn away, for the robbers had assumed He was made of gold and tested it by cutting and then melting His hand only to realise that this was just bronze. Even worse, the Nataraja made a trip around the world to Hong Kong and London, where a now-charged restorer made a new hand for him, before sending him to New York to appear on Subhash Kapoor's auction catalogue. The bronze then shockingly made an illicit return to Chennai, to be surrendered quietly to the Tamil Nadu police's Idol Wing in August 2011. How could these and hundreds of other stolen idols be exported despite such obvious red flags?

The World Customs Cooperation Council adopted an important resolution in Brussels in July 2016 on the "role of customs in preventing illicit trafficking of cultural objects". It said: "International borders still offer the best opportunity to intercept stolen cultural artefacts and to that end, customs authorities can play an instrumental role in preventing illicit trafficking of cultural objects."

It would come as a surprise to many, but compared to the limited role of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as a custodian, the scope of Indian customs is more significant in the context of combating illicit trafficking of cultural property, not just as a border check but one that goes much further. The Customs Act of 1962 is used for the bulk of prosecution in antiquities trafficking cases as the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act of 1972 (AAT) lacks a specific provision for prosecution. We will take up the need for reform in legislations later, but here, the focus is on the need for reform in the current procedural aspects covering the export process, search and seizure—and on why India has such a poor record of success in discovery and seizure, and fares even worse in successful prosecution of cultural property crimes.

The start point is obvious—the exit channels from where antiquities are trafficked out of India—gateway ports (both sea and air) and porous borders. The main vectors acting as carriers are ocean and air transport companies, in the initial post-Independence decades via diplomatic pouches and now couriers, accompanied and unaccompanied baggage.

The customs export procedure consists of two important steps—assessment and examination. In the last two decades, tremendous progress has been made in the first via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). This has almost replaced manual document filing and assessment in most gateways. But its true power is yet to be properly harnessed in the antique smuggling domain.

Moving to the second step, it would be impossible to do a 100% physical examination of all export consignments. The logical procedure would be random but assisted sampling—however currently, there is no data available in public domain on how consignments are picked for checking. Today, pattern analysis tech can be used to set up obvious red flags—a treasure trove of shipment data connected to past and current smugglers under probe including exports by Nimbus (Subhash Kapoor case) and Vaman Ghiya, wherein a host of Indian exporters fooled the system and shipped out genuine antiquities declaring them audaciously as garden furniture, brassware, etc. The Customs Act has stringent penalties against exporters for wrong declarations in shipping bills. But authorised custom house agents file the shipping bills; if in doubt, customs officers are expected to mark any suspected parcels to the ASI for a no-objection certificate. Currently, the ASI has deputed officers for this only in Mumbai and Delhi (airport). There are further hindrances as even the deputed ASI officers are empowered only to declare an object as "suspected to be an antiquity" or non-antiquity on the spot. The Kapoor case has thrown up instances of "favourable officers" and due to the opaque nature of inspections, there is no proper record. Even if suspected to be an antiquity, the process gets longer invoking the AAT's Section 24 that says the ASI's director general is the final authority. But since the DG ASI's nomination criteria are muddled and he doesn't necessarily have to come from the field of archaeology, he in turn is to appoint an authorised nominee with the help of three or four field experts. Sadly, the choice of panellists, number of such sittings, minutes of these evaluations and even the number of objects declared as antiquities or otherwise are not published.

Pazhuvur Nataraja

The problem is amplified by the method of issuance of a non-antiquity certificate (NAC) for export. This is done by the ASI via its circle offices. The process for obtaining an NAC hasn't changed for over five decades—the prospective exporter submits the object for assessment to the ASI. After ascertaining it is a non-antiquity (less than 100 years old as per the AAT), the NAC is issued as a paper certificate: A photo of the object is stamped and it is valid for six months for export. With the experience gained from a multitude of cases where smuggler dens were raided yielding hundreds of fakes, it's a no-brainer that the system has been gamed. Fakes are submitted for certification while the originals are switched at the time of export with custom officers having to rely on just a photo for comparison.

The process is complicated by expert fakers and restorers working hand in hand with the smugglers in creating fakes that are artificially aged and originals painted over to give a recent look. Customs is seriously hampered due to the lack of support with respect to expert opinions and dearth of scientific testing methods that stand the scrutiny of courts and high-profile lawyers employed by the collecting cabal.

A list of suggestions to remedy these flawed processes: 1) Export ban on any artefact that shows damage/mutilation. Countries like Thailand have already banned the export of Buddha heads even if newly made ('Buddha is not for decoration' campaign). 2) Complete ban on artificially aged, patinated metal objects. 3) Do away with the six-month time limit of the ASI's NAC and ensure complete visibility of chain of custody from the time of inspection to export. 4) Create a national panel of experts (an alternating roster); the opinion must be due to a majority vote and the same must be published periodically on the ASI website as an annual report with statistics of the number of objects inspected, stopped and seized at the customs exit point. 5) A toolkit for customs and law enforcement, maybe modelled on the UNESCO-EU's one on illicit trafficking for European judiciary and law enforcement, with model lookout lists and sample photos of frequently trafficked objects by state. 6) Work on studying past prosecutions to prepare red flags inside the customs EDI framework. As we are not harvesting the virtual treasure trove of customs data spanning two decades, key perpetrators of crimes are still free and actively smuggling our art treasures. 7) Work with reputed universities to create centres of excellence for research, scientific testing and dating methods to support prosecution. 8) Cancel or at least temporarily ban the export and antique dealership licenses of anyone charged with violation of the Customs Act or AAT.

(The India Pride Project's #BringOurGodsHome initiative has helped bring many stolen idols back to our country) (vj.episteme@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

China's reaction hypocritical

China saying that India's ban on the 59 apps is against WTO guidelines is hypocritical. Beijing has blocked almost all major non-Chinese apps and sites like Google, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. This hypocrisy should be highlighted in all forums.

Mahesh Iyer, email

Privatising trains a bold step

The Centre's proposal to privatise some trains of the Indian Railways is a bold step to offer better services. The present system is inefficient; it lacks good services and facilities. Private trains could energise the system and provide better service to customers.

G K Francis, email

Should have verified facts

This is with reference to *How Malappuram was reimagined by Maneka Gandhi* (Jul 3). Senior BJP leader Maneka Gandhi should have verified the veracity of the inputs she received about Malappuram before commenting.

Dharmarajan A K, Thalassery

Maneka's false claims

Kudos for publishing an article to rebuff Maneka Gandhi's false claims. It appears the communal political virus in her has overshadowed her love for animals. It is strange to see her planting communal explosives in her purported anguish over an explosive-laden fruit that killed the elephant.

Farhana Jabeen Fatima, Ballari

Honest, efficient govt officials

Our residence in Chennai had not been receiving metro water. During the pandemic, I rang up the local assistant engineer P Naveenkumar of Depot 123. He listened to me quietly and promised to come around 2 pm. As the clock struck two, I got a call from him saying he was at my gate with a team of assistants and the required tools. Over a few days, Mr Naveenkumar and his team found and removed blockages at several places. Soon we were getting adequate water. I had no clout nor had I used any connections whatsoever. This is definitely a credit to the assistant engineer, his superiors and ultimately the TN government. I hope this story is a source of encouragement to many such honest and efficient government servants never acknowledged by the public. We always like to highlight the government's inadequacies but avoid bringing out these instances. Political parties should rely on such performance by the government and its officers to seek the support of the electorate.

S Vijayaraghavan, Chennai

Education is a commodity now

This is with reference to *Why higher education should remain a public good* (Jul 3). Consumerism has led to the commoditisation of education, especially in India. If the trend continues, we may not be able to pass on our legacy to future generations.

A M Chakravarty, Hyderabad

Uniform teaching standard

Democratising education would ensure that the quality of teaching in the country acquires a uniform standard. It is an ethical approach and will help society, something market-fuelled institutions have failed to do.

Shafrina S, Thiruvithancode

Reform police force now

This is with reference to *Reforms in police force an urgent need* (Jul 3). The editorial is timely and should be read by lawmakers urgently if they are really interested in reforming the police. It is a shame that British-era laws intended to threaten and enslave our countrymen are still in the law books.

S Balakrishnan, Bengaluru

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Jyotiraditya M. Scindia @JM_Scindia
PM Narendra Modiji's visit to meet soldiers in Leh is a very important step. We are proud of our PM.

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
This is another example of 'Gundaraj' in UP. If even the police is not safe, what about the people?

Prakash Javadekar @Prakash Javadekar
Salute to our PM and soldiers. We are proud of our army and proud of our heroes. 'Jai Hind ki sena, Jai Hind ke nayak'

PM Narendra Modi being briefed by CDS Gen Bipin Rawat (left), paying tributes to the martyrs (centre) and interacting with soldiers injured in the recent Galwan Valley clash during his Ladakh visit, on Friday | PTI

'PM visit a morale booster for forces'

Experts say Prime Minister's Ladakh visit has also sent out the message that India will stand up to China

PUSHKAR BANAKAR AND MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's surprise visit to Ladakh amid the ongoing border tension along the LAC may have thrown everyone off guard, but experts feel the move was the need of the hour and will help boost the country's morale.

"With this visit, the PM has sent a good signal and sent out four messages, apart from showing that he is leading from the front. It demonstrates our resolve to China. Secondly, it gives a message to the armed forces that he supports them for their professional performance. This was further underlined by meeting the soldiers injured in the Galwan Valley clash. Third is the message to the people of India that we are up to it and facing the Chinese. Fourth is the message to the world that China cannot browbeat us, we stand firm and we will resolve the matter without third party," Lt-Gen (Retd) Vinod Bhatia, former DG, Military Operations, said.

B R Deepak, Sinologist and chairperson of the Centre for Chinese and South Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), feels the visit also helps the PM take stock of the situation on the ground.

"It is meant to take stock of ground realities along the border in Eastern Ladakh in terms of deployment of forces, equipment and logistics on the one hand and conveying to China that India will never accept the change of status quo along the LAC and China shifting its own coordinates at the border further west on the other. To the world, India is demonstrating that it will stand up to China, if challenged," he said.

Lt Gen DS Hooda (Retd), former chief of the Northern Command, echoed Deepak's views. "It is a good step. Since two months, there was no move forward, no de-escalation or disengagement. So, some message was needed to be sent out that we are serious about it," he said.

A former diplomat, who did not wish to be named, said the PM's visit was a morale booster for the forces and also acted as an assurance that the country was with them.

"Apart from being a morale booster, the timing of his visit, which coincided with India's diplomatic outreach on the issue, was very important. It is a clear message to China that we will look you in the eye and also tell the world of your wrongdoings," he said.

Debasish Chaudhari of the Institute of Chinese Studies, however, had a different view.

Questioning the objective of the visit, he said, "PM visited an integral part of Indian territory almost in a clandestine manner. Is it a personal visit or formal visit or a visit of a statesman to a war zone? He likes to break protocol, but what does he want to achieve by going there?"

BJP hails, Congress questions visit

BJP hailed PM's visit. "PM Modi's words give words to the emotion of 130 crore Indians and act as a great morale booster for our armed forces!" tweeted party chief J P Nadda. However, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took a veiled swipe. "Ladakhis say: China took our land. PM says: Nobody took our land. Obviously, someone is lying," he tweeted.

> **PM has sent out four messages: our resolve to China; supoort to the army; to people of India that we are up to facing the Chinese challenge; and to the world that China cannot browbeat us**
> Lt-Gen (Retd) Vinod Bhatia, former DG, Military Operations

> **It (PM's visit) is meant to take stock of ground realities in terms of deployment of forces, equipment and logistics on the one hand and conveying to China that India will never accept the change of status quo along LAC**
> B R Deepak, chairperson, Centre for Chinese and South Asian Studies, JNU

Pak using stand-off to push in terrorists

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

PM Narendra Modi's visit to Ladakh is a clear "message to China and Pakistan that India will give a fitting reply to anybody who challenges the country's sovereignty and intrudes in our territory," said a security expert.

With China engaging the Indian troops in Eastern Ladakh, Pakistan has intensified terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir and is pushing terrorists and arms and ammunition into Kashmir from its launch pads across the LoC. "What is happening on either side of our borders is clearly a joint operation of China and its ally Pakistan," he added.

This year the forces have eliminated 128 militants till June 30, according to Dilbag Singh, DGP, J&K. In June, 48 militants were killed.

"Pakistan has intensified its terrorist operations and is also radicalising and arming Kashmiri Muslim youth, who are joining the militant ranks for want of better alternative and for mass identity and following," said a source.

"Those who have joined militancy are not rabid religious or political ideologues. They are internet-driven educated youth, who are drawn to violence and the publicity they get as poster boys of terrorist organisations flaunting assault rifles. Thousands would turn up for the funerals of terrorists and this is used as a bait for recruitment of local youths," he said.

LAC: India reaches out to five nations

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @New Delhi

EVEN as the PM was interacting with the forces in Ladakh, India went on a diplomatic overdrive on Friday, apprising five countries about the prevailing situation along the LAC.

According to sources, India apprised the US, Japan, Germany, Russia and France about the prevailing tension in Ladakh following the Galwan Valley clash between Indian and Chinese troops on June 15.

After talks with Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Japan expressed solidarity with India, saying it will oppose any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo at the LAC.

"Had a good talk with FS Shringla. Appreciated his briefing on the situation along LAC, including GOI's policy to pursue peaceful resolution. Japan also hopes for peaceful resolution through dialogues. Japan opposes any unilateral attempts to change the status quo," Japanese envoy to New Delhi, Satoshi Suzuki, tweeted.

Earlier, Shringla has had virtual talks with his German counterpart Miguel Berger, French counterpart Francois Delattre and Russian envoy Nikolay Kudashev. The US has firmly backed India, with its Secretary of State Mike Pompeo blaming China for the escalation of tensions.

During the 2017 Doklam standoff, too, Tokyo had expressed solidarity with New Delhi and said force should not be used to alter the status.

A former diplomat feels India's outreach is a message to China. "It is way of telling Beijing that what they are doing is wrong. First the app ban, then the PM's visit and the diplomatic overdrive are all signs that India will stand up to the Chinese and also tell the world about their wrongdoings," he said.

Japan and China too have their problems with regard to the Senkaku Islands, known as the Diayou Islands in China. On Thursday, Tokyo strongly protested Chinese vessels entering Japanese waters. While the waters are administered by Japan, China claims it to be its own.

Nurses being honoured for their services to Covid-19 patients | PTI

Human trial nod for 2nd vaccine candidate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

THE Drug Controller General of India has granted permission for human trials of a Covid-19 vaccine candidate developed by pharmaceutical major Zydus Cadilla, within days of granting a similar approval to Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech's Covaxin. In a statement issued on Friday, the Ahmedabad-based company said it received permission from the DCGI- Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation for phase I and II trials of the potential plasmid DNA vaccine after "successfully completing pre-clinical phase".

> **No safety concerns were observed for the vaccine candidate in repeat dose toxicology studies by both intramuscular and intradermal routes of administration**
> Zydus Cadilla

The development comes even as the ICMR wrote to directors of 12 hospitals and research institutions in 10 states asking them to fast-track the clinical trial approvals for Covaxin.

In the letter, ICMR DG Dr Balram Bhargava, warning the hospitals against any delays, said the subject enrollment should be completed by July 7 as the government is looking to launch the vaccine by August 15.

Zydus, meanwhile, said its vaccine candidate for ZyCoV-D has been developed indigenously at the firm's Vaccine Technology Centre and was found to elicit a strong immune response in multiple animal species like mice, rats, guinea pigs and rabbits.

"The antibodies produced by the vaccine were able to completely neutralize the wild type virus in virus neutralization assay indicating the protective potential of the vaccine candidate," said the company. "No safety concerns were observed for the vaccine candidate in repeat dose toxicology studies by both intramuscular and intradermal routes of administration. In rabbits, up to three times the intended human dose was found to be safe, well tolerated and immunogenic."

It added that clinical GMP batches of the vaccine candidate have already been prepared and the clinical trials will begin this month in over 1000 subjects.

'Vaccine can't be developed in weeks'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BHARAT Biotech received permission for Phase 1 and 2 trials in humans after pre-clinical trials on three animals were encouraging, though its results have not been published yet.

As for the August 15 target, experts feared it could dent ICMR's reputation of conducting, promoting and monitoring high quality medical research.

"Science is about pursuit of truth and researchers cannot be forced to produce biased evidence in order to please their political masters but that is exactly what this diktat is asking them to do," said one of the country's most well known virologists, Dr T Jacob John, who has been associated with Christian Medical College, Vellore for long.

"IT'S almost as if the government agency has passed a judgment that the vaccine is safe and effective even without a single human being getting the jab yet."

Researcher and senior doctor at MGIMS, Wardha, Dr S P Kalantri pointed out that vaccine development takes months to years. "It's simply not possible to judge a vaccine in weeks as safety and efficacy of a formulation can be assessed only over a period of time," he said. "I do not understand how the ICMR is expecting hospitals to enrol subjects within 3-4 days. It could even lead to unethical practices under enormous pressures by researchers at chosen sites."

The principal investigators for the project, too, were uncomfortable with the timeline and language of the letter. "I found the content and language of the directive beyond bizarre," said a investigator.

The fiat to testing centres

This is one of the top priority projects being monitored at the topmost level of the government, says ICMR

It is envisaged to launch the vaccine for public health use latest by **AUGUST 15** after completion of all clinical trials

However, final outcome will depend on the cooperation of all clinical trial sites involved in this project

You are strictly advised to fast track all approvals to initiate clinical trial and ensure that the subject enrollment is initiated no later than July 7. Non-compliance will be viewed very seriously

THE CHOSEN 12

● AIIMS, Delhi ● AIIMS, Patna ● King George Hospital, Vizag ● Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad ● SRM Medical College and Hospital, Kattankulathur, TN ● Jeevan Rekha Hospital, Belagavi ● PGIMS, Rohtak ● Gillurkar Multispecialty Hospital, Nagpur ● Rana Hospital, Gorakhpur ● Prakhar Hospital, Kanpur ● Institute of Medical Sciences & SUM Hospital, Bhubaneswar ● Redkar Hospital, Goa

Cosmic sound therapy claimed to 'cure' Covid

SOMRITA GHOSH @New Delhi

THE Human Energy Research Centre — an organisation based on Public-Private Engagement model — in the national capital has claimed to have found a way to cure the Covid-19 by using an extraordinary sound therapy, electro-frequency vibration.

The therapy, developed by Dr Ramesh Vaish, Ikwan Onwuka and Dr Harsh Rastogi, is claimed to be based on the principle derived from the ancient Vedic philosophy that the entire universe is eternally in a state of subtle vibrations called cosmic sound. Combining this with the principles of quantum theory applicable to a wave, the experts developed three sound waves.

A trial was conducted in May on some patients in home isolation. Along with the therapy, the patients continued their medicinal routine. According to Dr Vaish, within days the patients showed improvement.

Monsoon Session: Rajya Sabha plans staggered seating, virtual participation

RICHA SHARMA @New Delhi

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat is planning staggered seating arrangements for MPs in conformity with the physical distancing norm during the upcoming monsoon session.

The broad position is to enable seating of members in the chamber and the galleries of the House in conformity with physical distancing and to enable virtual participation of other members from either the Central Hall or Balayogi Auditorium in the Parliament House premises, sources said. The chamber and the galleries of RS can accommodate 127 members while adhering to the physical distancing norm. All the galleries, except the media gallery, would be utilized for seating the members.

The Centre is planning to hold the monsoon session by August-end or early September. Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday held discussions on various options during the monsoon session.

Limited virtual participation is being considered in view of the capacity constraints of NIC at present.

"Naidu suggested enabling the participation of members from within the House to the extent possible. For enabling the viewing of participation from outside the House through virtual participation, it was felt that screens need to be arranged both within the chamber and outside," a source said.

No normal intl flights till July 31

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA has made clear that there will be no normal international operation of flights till July 31. The new circular has come amid the opening of booking by some airlines for international destinations. It said that international operation on selected routes may be allowed on case to case basis. Modifying its June 26 circular that stated that scheduled international passenger flights will remain suspended till July 15, 2020, the regulator said on Friday it has decided to extend the deadline to July 31, 2020.

Lockdown: Air gets cleaner as most of 2024 target met

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

A positive spin-off from the curbs imposed on several activities following lockdowns has been on the quality of air we breathe. The 4 metropolitan cities of the country recorded achieving 95 per cent of their 2024 National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) targets in just 74 days, said a report. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru managed to better their 2024 NCAP target by around 30 per cent, with Kolkata bettering its target by over 50 per cent, according to a report by researchers from Respirer Living Sciences and Carbon Copy.

The researchers analysed the average air quality during the four lockdown phases as well as concentrations during individual phases for four cities for PM2.5, PM10, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone and benzene. Dr Sagnik Dey from IIT-Delhi explained that out of the eight primary polluting sources, four were completely closed during the lockdown — construction and industrial activity, brick kilns and vehicles.

The data was sourced from air quality monitors set up by state pollution control boards.

The NCAP was notified in 2019 and sought reduction in particulate matter (breathable pollutants that can cause ailments) by 20-30 per cent by 2024.

"This period is a marker for policymakers on how they can achieve what has been planned for next four years, in a shorter period," said Ronak Sutaria, CEO, Respirer Living Sciences.

CORRUPTION GALORE

Out of 40,000 odd complaints about irregularities in the distribution of government relief for building houses damaged by cyclone Amphan, 34,000 were found genuine, an inquiry by the Bengal government revealed.

103 OFFICERS RESHUFFLED IN RAJASTHAN

Ahmedabad	39	26	Mumbai	32	24
Bhopal	32	22	Panaji	28	24
Jaipur	40	30	Patna	34	25
Amritsar	36	26	Lucknow	34	25
Chennai	35	28	Port Blair	29	25
Kolkata	34	28	Imphal	29	22
Srinagar	32	18	Chandigarh	37	28

Forensic staff at the encounter site in Kanpur on Friday | PTI

UP CM Yogi Adityanath meets an injured policeman at a Kanpur hospital | PTI

UP LOST MORE COPS THAN KASHMIR

In 2018, attack on cops rose by whopping 72% in the state, maximum loss with 70 casualties

SANA SHAKIL @ New Delhi

THE Kanpur encounter on Friday morning is the latest in a string of daring attacks against the police that shows how increasingly dangerous Uttar Pradesh has become for its law enforcement force.

Uttar Pradesh lost 70 police personnel in action in 2018 — the maximum in the entire country. More policemen were killed in UP than even in militancy-hit Jammu and Kashmir and Maoist-afflicted Chhattisgarh. After UP, Telangana and Punjab came second with 54 followed by Maharashtra 51, and Jammu and Kashmir 50.

Worse, the state saw a 72% jump in the crimes against police personnel in 2018 over the previous year, according to the latest data available with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). In 2018, 244 police personnel were attacked in the state whereas 142 cops faced hostile action in 2017.

This was significantly higher if it is compared with the national data as the percentage rise was nearly 24% for the rest of the country in 2018. On Friday, eight police personnel, including a deputy superintendent and three sub-inspectors, were killed during a raid to nab gangster Vikas Dubey.

As per the Crime In India Report 2018, 2,963 personnel were attacked marking an increase of 24% from the previous year when a total of 2,384 public servants were attacked. Notably, the 2017 data comprised not just attacks on police personnel but also those involving other public servants.

As many as 555 personnel were killed during police operations and 2,408 cops got injured in 2018. Among those who were killed on duty, 275 were constables, 141 were head constables, 56 were Assistant Sub-Inspector level officers, 47 were Sub-Inspectors and six were Inspectors. The rank of 30 cops who were also killed during police operations was not known, according to the NCRB.

Among the injured, the NCRB data shows, constables suffered brunt of the attacks as compared to other ranks. As many as 1,428 constables got injured during police operations. While riotous mobs were involved in 1,358 attacks, gangsters and criminals came second with 549 assaults on police personnel in 2018.

> As the news of Kanpur came to the fore, a family of four were also killed in Prayagraj. Looking at this Jungle Raj, the accountability will have to be fixed
>
> Priyanka Gandhi, Congress leader

CM declares ex gratia

UP CM Yogi Adityanath announced ₹1 crore ex-gratia to kin of all eight policemen killed during an operation against gangster Vikas Dubey. Meanwhile, UP DGP announced a cash award of ₹50,000 for giving a tip off about the absconding gangster.

Dubey plotted murder case while inside prison

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

LIKE any other farmer, Vikas Dubey loved the land where he grew up in Bikru village, Kanpur (about 150 km from Lucknow), and hated anyone who could even raise his voice against his father. He made much of it clear quite early in his life – in 1990, he violently clashed with the Chaudharys of neighbouring Dibba Niwada village to avenge insult to his father.

The 'Shivli-ka-Don' faces over 60 cases of murder, attempt-to-murder and extortion. Such is his terror in the village that no one has yet come out openly against the don.

Said to own at least a dozen properties in Kanpur's rural areas, Dubey is a Brahmin, something he used to the hilt while flirting with politicians across all parties. As he graduated to notoriety, his clout across political parties, including BJP, BSP and the SP, also rose.

In 2001, Dubey was allegedly involved in the gruesome murder of a BJP leader, Santosh Shukla, who was gunned him down inside a police station. He earned the moniker of 'Shivli-ka-don' 20 years back, when he was named in the killing of Siddeshwar Pandey, an assistant manager at Tarachand Inter College, located in Shivli police station area of Kanpur. He was sentenced for life in the case. Yet, the same year, he was booked for plotting the murder of one Rambabu Yadav in Kanpur from inside the jail.

Congress claims MP Cabinet exceeds limit, to move SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

EVEN as MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan takes his time in allocating portfolios to the newly inducted 28 ministers, the Congress plans to move the apex court over the number of ministers not being in conformity with constitutional provisions.

The Congress has alleged that the 34-member Council of Ministers, which includes the CM, exceeds the maximum number of ministers prescribed under Article 164 (1A) of the Constitution.

Senior advocate and Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha tweeted: "Shivraj ji has violated the law again. First he ran the government without a cabinet. When the matter was taken up with the President, he inducted only five ministers, which was less than the minimum requirement of 12 ministers. He again violated the law by inducting on Thursday more ministers than 15% of the present 206 strength of the state legislature. The Congress will move the court."

Tankha confirmed to *TNIE* on Friday that the party was working on moving the Supreme Court.

Article 164 (1A) of the Constitution reads, "The total number of ministers, including the CM, in the council of ministers in a state shall not exceed 15% of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that state".

"We'll inform the SC that while the minimum requirement of 12 ministers was fulfilled initially, now the number of ministers post cabinet expansion has exceeded the maximum limit stipulated clearly in the Constitution," Tankha said.

In another development, protests by supporters of many BJP MLAs who missed ministerial berths are gathering momentum across the state. On Thursday, it was supporters of BJP MLAs Yashpal Singh Sisodia (Mandsaur) and Ramesh Mendola (Indore-II) who protested in their districts.

Madhya Pradesh CM with BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia in Bhopal on Friday | PTI

Congress duo hits back at Jyotiraditya

As his former colleague Jyotiraditya Scindia quipped 'Tiger Abhi Zinda Hai', Congress veteran Kamal Nath questioned whether it was paper tiger or tiger of the circus. Digvijaya Singh went on comment that two tigers (CM and Scindia) would end up in a territorial fight.

CRPF head constable, militant killed in Srinagar

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

IN yet another gunfight in Srinagar, a militant and a CRPF head constable were killed in an overnight encounter at Malabagh area.

While two Hizbul Mujahideen militants, including its top commander Junaid Sehraim, were killed in Nawa Kadal area on May 19, militants had shot dead two BSF men in Srinagar outskirts and snatched their weapons on May 20. On June 21, three militants were killed in Zoonimar area of Srinagar.

Inspector General, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said police and CRPF men launched a search operation in Malabagh area, near University of Kashmir, on Thursday night after receiving inputs about presence of two militants of Islamic State Jammu and Kashmir (ISJK). The search operation turned into a gunfight after militants opened fire on the troops. In the firefight, ISJK militant Zahid Dass and CRPF head constable Kuldeep Urwan were killed.

The IG said Zahid was involved in the June 26 attack in which a CRPF jawan and a boy lost their lives. Zahid, according to the police, had escaped from an encounter site on June 30 in Anantnag in which two ISJK militants and his associates were killed.

> Srinagar can never be militancy-free as long as militancy is there. Militants keep on coming to the city for receiving medical treatment, holding meetings and raising funds
>
> Vijay Kumar, Kashmir IG

When asked about the encounters in Srinagar, the IG said Srinagar district is not militancy-free.

"Srinagar can never be militancy-free as long as militancy is there. Militants keep on coming to the city for receiving medical treatment, holding meetings and raising funds," Kumar told reporters on the sidelines of a wreath laying ceremony of a CRPF man killed in Malabagh.

The IG said 12 top militants, including five from Hizbul, three from Lashkar and four from Jaish-e-Muhammad, are on radar of security forces. "We have already announced their names and they are being tracked down," he said.

Empty bullet catridges recovered from encounter site on Friay | ZAHOOR PUNJABI

Ceasefire violations: India lodges protest with Pak

India on Friday registered a strong protest with Pakistan for over 2,400 ceasefire violations along LoC and International Boundarys. "Till June, 14 Indian nationals have been killed and 88 more injured in more than 2,432 unprovoked ceasefire violations," a source said. "We also conveyed our concerns at the continued support being extended by Pakistan forces for cross-border infiltration of terrorists."

8 policemen die in encounter with UP criminal gang

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

EIGHT policemen, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police and three sub-inspectors, were killed in a post-midnight encounter with a criminal gang in Kanpur's Bikru village.

Police had planned an operation to nab a long-time history-sheeter Vikas Dubey, who had about 60 criminal cases lodged against him.

Acting on a tip-off from local sources, a team of about 50 police personnel entered the village after Thursday midnight. As they began pressing in, Dubey's men opened fire at them from rooftops, killing the eight policemen on the spot.

The criminals then seized weapons from the dead policemen and fled the scene.

Thereafter, more forces reached the spot, and the police launched a combing operation, led by Kanpur Inspector General Mohit Agarwal. This led to a second encounter in which Prem Prakash and Atul—two of Dubey's closest aides—were killed, inside a forest area near Kashiram Niwada village, about six kilometers from Bikru.

Sources said Dubey's men had set up roadblocks and cut off the power supply to the village, meaning they may have anticipated the operation.

The police, on the other hand, was caught surprised when they were fired at. Additional Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar has admitted an intelligence failure on the part of the police that led to the loss of lives.

Dubey was yet to be arrested as of Friday night. The operation was continuing in Kanpur and adjoining districts. More forces have been pressed in.

Choreographer Saroj Khan passes away

SHILAJIT MITRA @ Mumbai

RENOWNED Bollywood choreographer **Saroj Khan** died of a cardiac arrest in Mumbai on Friday.

In a career spanning over four decades, she choreographed over 2,000 Bollywood songs, after starting as a child artist and background dancer. Some of her biggest hits as a choreographer were *Hawa Hawai* from *Mr. India* (1987), *Ek Do Deen* from *Tezaab* (1988), *Dhak Dhak Karne Laga* from *Beta* (1992), *Nimbooda Nimbooda* from *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam* (1999), *Dola Re Dola* from *Devdas* (2002) among many others.

She was a mentor and collaborator to stars like Sridevi, Madhuri Dixit, Juhi Chawla, and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. Her choreography was known for her mastery of classical Indian dance forms which she fused with catchy Bollywood hooksteps. On television, she had judged dance reality shows *Nach Baliye, Boogie Woogie* and *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa*.

EXPRESS READ

Sonia writes to PM for OBC quota

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging the Union Government to extend reservation for OBC candidates in All India Quota of medical and dental seats, even in the State/UT Medical education institutions in the interest of equity and social justice.

Swachh Survekshan toolkit launched

The Ministry of Urban affairs on Friday launched the toolkit for Swachh Survekshan 2021, the sixth edition of the annual cleanliness survey of urban India. The SS 2021 indicators focus on parameters pertaining to wastewater treatment and reuse along with faecal sludge.

In Corona-hit Bihar, wooden sticks to help voters push EVM button

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

GOING by all indications, Bihar is all set to go to the polls in October-November despite a rapid rise in coronavirus cases. State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) HR Srinivasa told this paper that it would be a big challenge: the number of ballot papers will go up following an amendment in the rules on Thursday under which voters above 65 years of age, suspected and confirmed Covid-19 patients can use postal ballots.

Srinivasa said voters, who opt to come to the polling booths for casting their votes, will be given small wooden sticks to push the EVM button as a safety measure against corona infection.

Also, if a voter is spotted standing in a queue without wearing a mask, a free 3-ply khadi mask would be given to him by the EC, besides making proper arrangement for hand-washing.

For social distancing at polling booths, election officials are working on keeping only 1,000 voters at one polling booth. The most challenging task would be ensuring voting for over 18,000 centenarian voters in addition to those above 65 years of age, who could prefer postal ballots.

"The state will have to create 45% new polling booths, tentatively depending on the finalisation of electoral rolls to ensure one polling booth for every 1,000 voters."

Currently Bihar has 1.98 crore voters of 32-39-year age group besides 8.70 lakh voters of above 70 years of age. "This year, around 7.43 lakh new voters have been added to the electoral rolls," Srinivasa said.

As per official figures, there are 2.37 lakh voters in 90-99-year age group, 10.59 lakh to 80-89-year of age, 31 lakh to 72-79-year age and 33.27 lakh to 62-69 age group. "Ensuring safety to the poll personnel and the electorate would be the top priority for us at a time when the state is battling the pandemic," Srinivasa said, adding the EC would provide 3-ply khadi masks and bacteria-proof hand gloves.

On whether the EC has decided to go with online polling, Srinivasa said the Commission would have to take a call on it.

> The state will have to create 45% new polling booths, tentatively depending on the finalisation of electoral rolls to ensure one polling booth for every 1,000 voters — HR Srinivasa, Chief Electoral Officer

Chandigarh set for traffic e-challan system

The Chandigarh Police is contemplating to launch the e-challaning system in the city. This system would allow violators to pay traffic fines on the spot. After the introduction of the system, violators will no longer need to visit the Traffic Lines in Sector 29 to pay the penalties. Under the system, traffic police will be given e-challaning machines. These gadgets will have the history of previous challans of the offender along with the payment status of any dues. Violators will be able to pay the fine on the spot using debit or credit cards. However, it will not cover fines related to non-compoundable offenses such as drink driving.

HARPREET BAJWA
Our correspondent in Chandigarh
hsbajwa73@gmail.com

CHANDIGARH DIARY

Sale of bottled thinners banned for 60 days

The Chandigarh Administration has imposed a ban on production and sale of bottled correction fluid and bottled thinners of any chemical composition, both for ink erasing purposes and for nail polish removers from July 3 to August 31. Any breach of the order will invite action under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code. The order in this regard was issued by the District Magistrate Mandip Singh Brar. He ordered that the sale and production of bottled correction fluid and bottled thinners were prohibited within the jurisdiction of the Union Territory for 60 days. This order shall come into force from zero hours on 03.07.2020 and shall be effective for a period of 60 days up-to and including 31.08.2020. Thinners will be allowed only in pen and similiar devices.

City best in Covid recovery rate

Chandigarh tops the list of states and Union Territories with the best Covid-19 recovery rate in India, according to data released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Covid recovery rate in Chandigarh is 86.4 per cent while the national recovery rate stood at 59.52 per cent. The city has recorded 450 cases till Thursday evening out of which 389 have recovered. 6 people have died due to Covid-19 in the city, according to official data. There are only 55 active cases now. So far, Chandigarh has tested 7,938 samples for Covid survey.

Get your pet registered, or pay Rs 5,000 fine

People will now have to pay 10-times more for not getting their pet dogs registered in the city. The penalty for not getting pet dogs registered was raised from existing ₹500 to ₹5,000. The UT issued a notification in this regard. The registration fee was raised from ₹200 to ₹500. If a dog defecates at a public place, the owner shall have to arrange for its cleaning. Any pet dog straying at large will be seized. If the dog is detained the owner will have to pay the maintenance charges of ₹1,000 per day. As per the Chandigarh Registration of Pet Dogs Bylaws, 2010, dog owners must register each pet at the Municipal Corporation office once the canine is four months old.

$11.2 bn fund

The Spanish government is going to create for rescuing firms hardest hit by the coronavirus crisis

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	34	24	SNY	Los Angeles	23	16	SNY
Colombo	31	26	TDS	Melbourne	16	7	LR
Doha	39	28	SNY	Moscow	25	14	HR
Dubai	39	29	SNY	New York	27	19	LC
Houston	35	23	SNY	Singapore	29	25	TDS
Istanbul	27	19	HR	Toronto	28	17	SNY
London	21	14	LC	Washington DC	26	20	LR

China appoints tough security enforcer to subdue Hong Kong

Propaganda official is a hardliner who stamped out anti-graft protests in 2011 in mainland

BEIJING

CHINA appointed a hardliner to head a new national security agency in Hong Kong Friday as police brought the first charges under a sweeping new anti-subversion law that has shaken the semi-autonomous finance hub.

Zheng Yanxiong – a party official best known for tackling protests on the mainland -- will lead the office set up by the legislation that empowers mainland security agents to operate in Hong Kong openly for the first time, unbound by the city's laws.

The appointment came as a man accused of deliberately driving his motorbike into a group of police officers became the first person in Hong Kong to be charged under the new national security law.

China's authoritarian leaders say the suite of powers will restore stability after a year of protests and will not stifle freedoms. But police have already begun arresting people for possessing flags while the local government has made clear certain political views, especially calls for independence, are now outlawed.

On Thursday evening Nathan Law, one of the city's most prominent young activists, announced he had fled overseas to an undisclosed location, fearing arrest days after the pro-democracy party he helped found said it was disbanding.

Many western governments have condemned the law and have angered Beijing by threatening to hit back with sanctions.

Harsh crackdowns

The new national security agency is just one new element of Beijing's landmark law targeting subversion, secession, terrorism and colluding with foreign forces.

A file photo of Zheng Yanxiong speaking on television in Wukan, China | AFP

The office has investigation and prosecution powers and will monitor intelligence related to national security and process cases, in some circumstances handing them over to the mainland for trial.

Zheng rose through the ranks of the local government in southern Guangdong province which borders Hong Kong, to serve as secretary general of the provincial Communist Party committee.

The 56-year-old is known as a hardliner who stamped out often-violent anti-corruption protests that erupted in Wukan, a village in the province, in 2011 after a local activist died in police custody.

"He is a tough enforcer, a law and order person," Willy Lam, an expert on China's Communist Party at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, told AFP.

Hong Kongers scrub social media history

Hong Kongers are scrubbing their social media accounts, deleting chat histories and mugging up on cyber privacy as China's newly imposed security law blankets the traditionally outspoken city in fear and self-censorship. Certain political views such as wanting independence became outlawed overnight and analysts and rights groups warn the wording of the law -- which bans subversion, secession, terrorism and colluding with foreign forces -- will choke civil liberties and free speech.

China lifts Beijing curbs, to phase out slaughter & sale of live poultry

Beijing has contained transmission of a new coronavirus outbreak and will lift travel restrictions on most residents, authorities said, weeks after a new wave of infections broke out in the capital. China also vowed to gradually phase out the slaughter and sale of live poultry at food markets. The recent infections were traced to a wholesale market, where live poultry kept in cages is a common sight.

Hong Kong was rocked by several months of huge and sometimes violent pro-democracy protests last year, a movement which Beijing has vowed to end with its new security law. China has dismissed protesters' demands for greater democracy and portrayed the unrest as a foreign plot. *AFP*

Britain eases virus quarantine norms

LONDON

BRITAIN on Friday announced the first exemptions from its quarantine rules as the coronavirus outbreak slowed in Europe, but excluded the United States as the pandemic accelerates in the United States and across the Americas.

With Europe reopening after an unprecedented lockdown, travellers arriving into England from more than 50 countries will from July 10 no longer be required to undergo 14 days' self-isolation.

The European Union meanwhile authorised the use of the anti-viral drug remdesivir for Covid-19 -- the first treatment approved to deal with the disease – although the United States has bought most of the global stock.

But across the Atlantic the news was increasingly grim with the US posting a record 53,000 new cases, while the number of infections in Latin America overtaking those in Europe for the first time.

Touching almost every country on Earth since it emerged in China late last year, the coronavirus has hit at least 10.8 million people and killed 521,000 globally, shattering previously buoyant economies and bringing public life to a standstill.

Diners are seated in family bubbles to test the UK's only purpose-built, socially-distanced restaurant, The Anti-Social Club, in Cornwall, England | AP

In Europe, countries are trying to safely revive tourism as the northern hemisphere summer gets underway.

England said it will allow travellers from 50 countries including New Zealand, Germany, France, Spain and Italy to stop quarantining, but Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will announce their own rules. Many of those countries will now also allow travellers from Britain, which has suffered the deadliest coronavirus outbreak in Europe, with at least 44,000 dead, although infection rates are falling.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said the change, which reverses a two-week quarantine policy imposed in June, would lead to the "reopening of the nation". *AFP*

20 PAK SIKHS KILLED AS SHORTCUT TAKEN BY DRIVER PROVES DEADLY

The wreckage of the van that transported Sikh pilgrims in Sheikhupura, Punjab. On the right, a Sikh man carries an injured girl inside a hospital | AFP

LAHORE

AT least 20 Pakistani Sikh pilgrims returning from Nankana Sahib were killed when the driver of the mini-bus they were travelling reportedly tried to take a short cut to avoid a shut railway crossing and rammed the vehicle into a passenger train in Pakistan's Punjab province on Friday, officials said.

The mini-bus carrying around 26 Sikh pilgrims, all from Peshawar, hit the Shah Hussain Express which was coming from Karachi to Lahore at a crossing near Sheikhupura district at around 1.30 pm, police said.

As per Rescue 1122 officials, at least eight were injured in the accident and they were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital, Sheikhupura, *Dawn* reported.

The gate at the crossing was closed and the driver apparently tried to take a shortcut instead of waiting for the gate to open, senior police officer Ghazi Salahuddin told reporters at the crash site.

'Twenty passengers died that included women and children,' he said.

The Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) spokesperson Amir Hashmi said the bus was carrying mostly Sikh pilgrims to Gurdwara Sacha Sauda in Farooqabad in the district.

"They had come to Nankana Sahib from Peshawar. After staying in Nanakana Sahib, they were leaving for Peshawar. The ETPB security had escorted them till the limits of Nankana Sahib," he said. Police have denied reports that the crossing was unmanned.

Railways Chief Executive Officer Dost Ali Laghari has set up a panel comprising three senior officers to investigate. It will present its initial report by Saturday "so that it can be determined which side was at fault". *PTI*

PROPERTY DOCUMENTS LOST

This is to inform to the General Public that my Client R.N.Nagaraj S/o R.C.Nanjndaiah Residing at: # 361, 10th Cross, Near Back Gate of Srinivasa Temple, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore-86. While Shifting the House has lost Original Sale Deed of Site No.141, 4th Block, Katha No.684, Yerappanahalli Grama, Kannur Grama Panchayath, Bidharahalli Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, Registered by President and Secretary of the Society in favour of C.Ramesh S/o C.Ramarao.If anybody finds it please inform:

Mallanna.K, Advocate
No.269, 1st Main, 8th Cross, Manjunathanagar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010
M: 98445 39626 / 99723 04611

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that my clients **Mrs. MAUREEN ALICE ANNE SEQUEIRA** W/o. Mr.Philip Francis Gerard Sequeira **and her son Mr.SIDDHARTH THOMAS SEQUEIRA KAMATH** are intending to purchase the "Schedule Property" mentioned hereunder from **Mr. RAMANJI D @ Mr. RAMANJINAPPA. D and Ms. JAYAMALA.D.K** both children of Late Dodda kempanna and Late Rathnamma . Any Person/s, Banks, Financial Institution., etc. objecting for the proposed sale or having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the "Schedule property" are hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the advocate mentioned herein failing which our clients shall proceed and complete the Sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing **Vacant Site No.64**, Katha No.608, carved out of Sy.No.99, converted for non-agricultural to residential usage purpose vide Official Memorandum Dated 03.10.2008, Bearing document No. BDIS. A. L. N. (POO. B)SR 132/2007-08, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Bangalore District, Bangalore, **Situated at Doddagubbi Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** Measuring East to West 55 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, in all Measuring **2200 Square Feet,** together with all rights, appurtenances in whatsoever manner whether hereunder or underneath or above the surface & bounded on the:**East by:**Site No.55,**West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.63,**South by:** Site No.65.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN- M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants,No.235,(Old No.13), 8th Main, 4th Block,Near SLV Uniworth Classic Apts, Maruthi Badavane, Hennur Cross, Kalyan Nagar Post, B'lroe-43.Contact-9845846428, 9108784843.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that my client/s M/s. M.R.COMFORT, represented by its Partners propose/s to develop the below mentioned the Schedule Property owned by Mrs. S. N. PANKAJA, W/o. Late S. T. Nagaraj, Mrs. N. SUMANGALI, D/o. Late S. T. Nagaraj, both are residing at No. 865, 5th Cross, 5th Main Road, Indiranagar 1st Stage, Bangalore-560038 and Mrs. N. VEENA, D/o. Late S. T. Nagaraj, residing at No. 173, Krishna Kutera, Thubrahalli, Thirumala Swamy Temple, Whitefield (Post), Bangalore-560066. The owners represent that, apart from them there is/are no other person/s having any sort of right/s, title, interest/s or claim/s over the same and they have not either mortgaged, liened or encumbered the Schedule Property or part thereof any manner. The owners further represent that, they have not entered in to any sort of registered/unregistered Agreement of Sale, MoU/MoA/JDA,GPA/Will/lease etc., with any third parties with regard to conveyance/sale of the Schedule Property. That, if any person/s having objection/s or claim/s for the said development of the Schedule Property, he/she/they/it may/shall with substantiated documentary evidence lodge his/her/their/its claim/s/objection/s **within seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, my client/s shall proceed to develop the Schedule Property, as if there is/are no claims/objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Property No. Converted Sy No. 2/4, (previously Sy.No. 2),New Municipal No.147, PID No. 61-59-147. **Extent:** Measuring 21954 square feet. **Location:** Situated at **Lalbagh Siddapura Village,** Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now coming under the limits of **BBMP of Mavalli Ward, presently known as Siddapura, Bangalore. Boundaries: East by:** Property of Venkateshappa/ Muniveerappa, **West by:** Road and Private Property, **North by:** Property of Krishnappa, **South by:** Property of Padmamma Road.

H. NAGESH - Advocate,
No. 46, 2nd Main,Opposite to Anand Co-Operative Bank, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-20.M:9902201565
Bangalore Date: 03.02.2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public at large is hereby put to notice that the immovable property bearing **plot No.181-B of Bommasandra Industrial Area,** situated in Sy. No. 270 of Bommasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District ad-measuring 1177.40 sq. mts. or 12673.428 sq. ft. together with buildings and erections standing and being thereon (which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder) is subject matter of various litigation as under:

1.O.S. No. 6998 of 2010 pending on the file of the Hon'ble XXIV Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bengaluru;

2.S.A. No. 102 of 2019 pending on the file of the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Tribunal -I, Bengaluru; and

3.C.C. No. 23215 of 2019 pending on the file of the learned 4th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bengaluru;

The public in general is hereby informed that the undersigned Kureti Venugopal Rao is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule property and that the Hotel Industrialists Co-operative Bank Ltd. has illegally taken physical possession of the schedule property although the owner of the schedule property/the undersigned has not availed any loan nor has stood as a guarantor for any loan availed from the Hotel Industrialists Co-operative Bank Ltd. Now, it has come to the undersigned's notice that the Bank has on 19/06/2020 issued an auction notice for sale of the schedule property to be held on 17/07/2020 at 11:30 A.M. The Hotel industrialists Co-operative Bank Ltd. does not have any legally tenable rights over the schedule property.

The public at large be aware that the Hon'ble XXIV Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bengaluru in **O.S. No. 6998 of 2010** has passed an interim order **restraining the alienation of the schedule property** which is still in currency. The undersigned has also filed a criminal case against the Hotel Industrialists Co-operative Bank Ltd. and others alleging fraud and cheating (non-bailable offence) in **C.C. No. 23215 of 2019** pending on the file of the learned 4th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bengaluru.

In view of the foregoing facts and circumstances, the public at large be aware that any member of the general public participating in the auction of the schedule property to be held on 17/07/2020 or any other date by the Hotel Industrialists Co-operative Bank Ltd. might be considered as being hand in glove with the Hotel Industrialists CO-operative Bank Ltd. in conspiring to cheat and commit fraud on the the undersigned, of his legal right and undisputed title over the schedule property and further might be held in contempt of court interim order passed in O.S. No. 6998 of 2010 passed by the Hon'ble XXIV Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the industrial land property bearing **Plot No. 181-B,** Bommasandra Grama Panchayath Khata No.169/181-B, Bommasandra Industrial Area, formed in Survey No. 270, **situated at Bommasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, Bangalore-560 099** and **measuring east to west (75.40+77.40)/2meters & north to south (11.00+20.20)meters, in all measuring 1177.40 square meters,** with built up area of 2099 sq. ft.on the ground floor with RCC roofing & bounded by:**East by:**Plot No.178,**West by:**Road, **North by:**Plot Nos.180 &181,**South by:**Pvt. Land

Kureti Venugopal Rao,53/9, 5th Main, 12th Cross, Wilson Garden,Bengaluru-560 030.
Ph No.9620282514
Bengaluru Date:03.07.2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that my client **Mr. SAICHARAN S** S/o Mr. Suresh Babu.V, is intending to purchase the "Schedule Property" mentioned hereunder from **Mr. UDAYA @UDAYA KUMAR** S/o Mr. Mahalingappa. Any Person/s, Banks, Financial Institution., etc. objecting for the proposed sale or having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the "Schedule property" are hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the advocate mentioned herein failing which our clients shall proceed and complete the Sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Site No.6, Katha No.237,** Property bearing No.4, PID No.237/338/6, **Situated at Kothanur Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** Measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet in all Measuring **1200 Square Feet,** coming under the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, ward No.25, along with a resi -dential building standing thereon, and bounded on the:**East by:**Christian Trust, **West by:**20 feet Road, **North by:**Sri.Nagaraj Property, **South by :** Sri.Grumurthy Reddy's Property

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN- M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants,No.235,(Old No.13), 8th Main, 4th Block,Near SLV Uniworth Classic Apts,Maruthi Badavane, Hennur Cross, Kalyan Nagar Post, B'lroe-43. Contact-9845846428, 9108784843.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client **SRI. PEMARAM DEVASI,** S/o Sri Verakaram Devasi, R/at No. 60, 6th Cross, L.N.Pura, Bangalore-560021, intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder owned by **SRI. HANUMANTHARAJU .N,** S/o Sri Nagappa, Residing at No.21/1, 12th Cross, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560079. Notice is hereby given to all concerned calling for objections if any against such purchase of schedule property, if anybody have any right, title, interest or claims whatsoever over the same or any part thereof, they are hereby requested to lodge their written objections / claims together with supporting documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 days of publication of this notice, failing which my client shall complete sale transactions and no subsequent claims by anybody shall be entertained and all such ojections and claims will be deemed to be void and not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing New Municipal No. 13/1, PID No. 37-55-13/1, previously Northern portion of the property bearing No. 13, Old 22, Old Assessment No.42, Malagalu Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 15ft in all measuring 600 Sq.ft and bounded on the:

East by: 20 ft Road, West by: Property bearing No.22A, North by: Third party Property, South by: Remaining portion of the same property of Hanumantharaju .N.

Address : **N.M. Bhat Associates,** Advocates No. 64, 71st Cross, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore - 560 010.
Phone No. 94481 29256

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the property mentioned and described in the Schedule hereunder from its Owners, **(1) Sri. Suryanarayana alias Ravi,** son of Late Munivenkatappa, **(2) Sri. Anand. R, (3) Sri. Prabhakar. R, (4) Sri. Beeresh. R** and **(5) Sri. Divakar. R** (Sl. No. 2 to 5 are the sons of Sri. Suryanarayana alias Ravi). The Owners represent and warrant that they are the absolute owners in possession of the Schedule Property and have good marketable, right, title and interest therein and that apart from them there are no other person/s having any right or claim over the Schedule Property and they have not entered into any Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding etc. The Owners further represents that they have not mortgaged, created any lien or encumbered the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner with any person/s. Any person/s having objection/s or claims, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s or claims **within fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural lands situated at Chikkabanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru mentioned here below:

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Extent	Boundaries			
			East	West	North	South
1.	67/4	34 ½ guntas	Sy. Nos. 67/1 67/2 & 67/3	Sy. Nos. 67/5, 67/6 & Kaluve	Sy. Nos. 67/5 & 68/1	Kaluve
2.	67/6	18 ½ guntas	Sy. Nos. 67/4 & 67/5	Sy. No. 67/7 & Kaluve	Sy. Nos. 67/5 & 69/3	Sy. Nos. 67/4 & 67/7

Jayanth M Pattanshetti, Advocate
102, Ground Floor, "Rams Infantry Manor", No. 70, Infantry Road, Bengaluru-560 001. Ph: 25593195/41238516.
Bengaluru Email : mails@pattanshetti.in
Date: 03-07-2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify that our client Ms. Ramya Nagaraj D/o. A.S. Nagaraj is the owner of property situated in No.311, 5th Main 1st Block, Koramangla, Bangalore.560034, having registered documents and the revenue records mutated in the name Ms.Ramya Nagaraj and paying taxes to the BBMP till date. This property is not for sale and has not leased to anybody nor our client has not entered into any agreement of sale nor have executed power of attorney to anybody in regard to the schedule property.

It is brought to the notice of the public that one Mr. Mohammed Rihan Nawab, R/at. No. 56, Nida Villa 5th Block, Kormangala, Bangalore, his associates and henchmen are trying to sell the property illegally. They are strangers to the property having no right, title or interest.

The general public are cautioned not to deal with any such person/s trying to sell the schedule property, otherwise will be doing so at your own risk.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential house property bearing BDA site No.311, BBMP PID No.68-1-311, the layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, Situated at 5th Main Koramangla 1st Block, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 60ft or 18.288 Mtrs, North to South 40ft or 12.195 Mtrs, in all measuring 2400 sq.ft or 222.96 Sq.Mtrs, comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, bound on

East by : Property No.276, West by : 5th Main Road, North by : Property No.312, South by : Property No.310.

M/s. Balakrishna & Co. Advocates,
70/1, Royal Manor G-1, Cunningham Road, (SRKT ROAD), Bangalore-560052. Mobile: 9848068077

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE LOST

I J.P.Shobha Rani W/o T.Samson Residing at 169/9, Civilan Quarters, Command Hospital Airforce, Cambridge Road, Agram Post, Bangalore-560007 wish to state that my Marriage Certificate issued by Saint Church near Johnson Market, Bangalore was lost while going to get it Xeroxed near Sai Baba Temple, Cambride Layout, Bangalore.
If anybody finds it please Contact:
Mob: 97406 07286

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that, our clients **Smt. Baby Rajendra** W/o Late C. Rajendra, **Sri. Arun Balaji R, Sri. Rakesh Diwakar R, Mr. Rahul Subhakar R,** all are sons of Late C. Rajendra, R/at No.1/1, 2nd Cross, BSK Naidu Road, Mudamma Garden, Cox Town, Bangalore 560005, are the absolute owners of Schedule Property and had mortgaged the Schedule Property with M. Muthu Veran, S/o M. Murugan, R/at No.146, Old Byyappanahalli, Ganesh Temple Street, Bangalore 560033, vide Simple **Mortgage Deed, dated 07.02.2017, Registered as Document No.BNS-1-14706-2016-17, Stored in CD No.BNSD552, Registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar (Banaswadi), Bangalore.** The Mortgagee M. Muthu Veran has misplaced/lost the **Original Sale Deed dated 05.08.1991, Document No.1425/1991-92 of Book-1 in Volume No.3143, at pages 43 to 47, and Partition Deed bearing Document No.6290/2003-04 of Book-1, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bengaluru.** pertaining to the immovable property described in the schedule below & belonging to my client's Sri. Arun Balaji R, Sri. Rakesh Diwakar R, Mr. Rahul Subhakar R. In this regard a complaint has already been registered with the Jurisdictional Police. Finders are hereby requested to return the same to the undersigned. Any transaction based on the lost original sale deed will not be binding on my client, if the same is carried out without his written consent.

SCHEDULE: All that piece and parcel of portion of premises **Corporation No.1/1,** situated in **Mudamma Garden, Doddigunta, Cox Town, Bangalore,** measuring 35 x 40 and bounded on the: **East by:** Property No.15, **West by:** Property No.13, **North by:** Property No.11, **South by:** 10' feet vide Road.

Shiva and Waheeda Law Firm,
Advocates and Legal Consultants,
No.2, 1st Floor, 80 Ft Road, 2nd Cross, HRBR 1st Block, Kalyanagar, Bangalore 32.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHAFIQUA IRSHAD KHAN** W/o **Abdus Sattar Shaikh** R/at No.01, Ground Floor, No.2/2, Sapthagiri Residency, Hennur Road, Lingarajapuram, St.Thomas Town, Bangalore-560084, have changed my name to **SHAFIQUA ABDUS SATTAR SHAIKH** vide affidavit dated: 03/07/2020 before Notary **G.Kaspar** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MATHEN CHACKO KALLUMMANNIMEPURTH**, S/o. Late K.V. Mathew, residing at No. 77, Oxford School, 1st Phase, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 078, have changed my name as **KALLUMMANNIMEPURTH MATHEW CHACKO,** vide affidavit dated 03-07-2020 before Notary Public **H.S. DHARMA PRASAD,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SERVICE NO. 15332290F HAV Srinu Panugothu, CIW, Depot BN, MEG & Centre, Bangalore, PIN:560042, have changed my Son's name from **SONU** to **PANUGOTHU SONU** and from **PANUGOTH CHARAN** to **PANUGOTHU CHARAN** vide affidavit Dated 11/02/2020 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VISHNUPRIYA KALIKI,** D/o RAGHAVA REDDY KALIKI, working as Program Manager at Biocon Biologics India Limited, R/o Flat No. B2-104, Mahendra Aarna, Ananthnagar, Electronic City, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-560 100, have changed the name of my minor daughter **PRAJNA SREE A D/o SANJEEVAREDDY ANNAPURREDDY,** aged about 3 years and she shall hereafter be known as **PRAJNASREE KALIKI**, vide affidavit dated 2nd July 2020, sworn before Advocate and Notary **N. NAGAPPA** at Bangalore.

DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE

I, **SADA NAND SAINI** resident of SMQ-227/2, HQ Training Command Campus, IAF, Hebbal, JC Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560 006, have corrected / changed my daughter **NIDHI SAINI's** Date of Birth from 07.02.2004 to 07.03.2004 vide affidavit dated: 02.07.2020 before Notary N. Peruvazhuthi, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JAYASUDHA.P, Spouse of No. 15333626H Hav Prakasam.S, residing at # 1/59, Sozhamur (Vill & Post) Katpadi (Tk) Vellore (Dist) Tamil Nadu (State) PIN:632202, have changed my name from **JAYASUDHA.P** to **JAYASUDHA.M** vide affidavit Dated 02/07/2020 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto known as **RAVI S.,** S/o SRINIVAS, student in M.Tech on Thermal Engineering in University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, R/o Jogu Street, Sarjapura, Bangalore, Anekal, Karnataka-562125 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **RAVENDHRA KUMAR,** vide affidavit dated 2nd July 2020, sworn before Advocate and Notary **N. NAGAPPA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, R.Manjula, D/o. Sri. P.Rangaiah, aged about 43 years, R/at 33/83, "Sri Satya Sadana", 20th Cross, Ittamadu, Banashankari 3rd stage, Bengaluru-85 has changed my name to **R. USHA** vide affidavit dated 01/07/2020 sworn before L.Puttaraju-Advocate & Notary, Bangalore .

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DAMAYANTI.P, Residing at No. 1212/5-1, "Shiva Krupa", 35th B Cross, East End Main Road, 4th 'T' Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041, have changed my Minor Son's name from **ROHAN MANJUNATH** to **ROHAN.P** vide affidavit Dated 03/07/2020 sworn before Notary H.H.Nagaraj, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RISHI PAL SINGH,** aged 46 years, S/o Mr. Iqbal Singh, presently R/at No. 10, "Veena Nilaya", 3rd Floor, Srinivasapura Road, Mallarabanavadi, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562 123, Karnataka, India (Aadhar Card No. 9674 4946 2051) have changed my name from **RISHI PAL** to **RISHI PAL SINGH,** vide Affidavit dated 03/07/2020 duly sworn to before **Sri Ramasanjeevaiah K.V.,** Notary, Govt. of India, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JASKIRANJEET KAUR, Daughter of Satpal Singh, resident of Shashank Aikhya Appartments, Bangalore, have changed my name from **JASKIRAN JEET KAUR** to **JASKIRANJEET KAUR** vide affidavit Dated 03/07/2020 before N.Nagappa, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DAMAYANTI.P, Residing at No. 1212/5-1, "Shiva Krupa", 35th B Cross, East End Main Road, 4th 'T' Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041, have changed my Minor Son's name from **DARSHAN MANJUNATH** to **DARSHAN.P** vide affidavit Dated 03/07/2020 sworn before Notary H.H.Nagaraj, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **PHILOMENA ROSHINI J.,** D/o Agnes J., D/o Joseph S., born on 28.12.1993, R/at No. 9, First Floor, II Cross, LBS Nagar, HAL Post, Vimanapura, Rajeshwari Apartment, Bengaluru-560 017 have changed my religion from Christian to Islam and taken new name **ASFIYA FATHIMA**, vide Notary Affidavit dated 3.7.2020, before **G. Kaspar** Advocate & Notary, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MORUMAPALLE ANJANEYULU REDDY, residing at No.47/2, 1st Floor, Austin Plaza, Austin Town, Bangalore-560047, Karnataka, shall henceforth be known as **MORUMPALLI ANJANEYA REDDY** vide affidavit dated 03.07.2020 before notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR, Bangalore.

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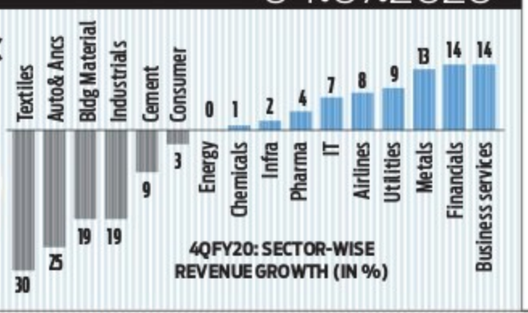
BUSINESS

10 BENGALURU SATURDAY 04.07.2020

A HARD QUARTER FOR INDIA INC

The last quarter of FY20 bore the first brunt of the pandemic and overall sales declined by 1.8% YoY, according to JM Financial. Most of the 140 firms covered in the analysis blamed the last 10-15 days of March for the fall in sales.



EXPRESS READ

SEMI-AUTOMATIC

HYUNDAI LAUNCHES NEW SMART MANUAL TRANSMISSION TECH

New Delhi: Hyundai Motors on Friday launched a new technology named intelligent Manual Transmission (iMT) in it's Venue sub-compact SUV. Hyundai's iMT technology is essentially a 2-pedal system that eliminates the need for drivers to constantly use the clutch pedal as in a conventional manual transmission. With this, the driver retains the ability to slot gears manually, thereby delivering enhanced control and retaining the joy of driving. SS Kim, MD and CEO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd, said, "With our 'Future Ready' business strategy, we have been continuously striving for customer delight with Human centric technologies".

SATELLITE FIRM

UK GOVT CONSORTIUM INVOLVING BHARTI WINS BID FOR ONEWEB

New Delhi: A UK government consortium involving Bharti has won the bid for OneWeb, which develops satellite technology in the UK and in the US. While Indian telecom czar Sunil Mittal's Bharti did not share deal details, UK Business Secretary Alok Sharma said his government and Bharti Global, will provide $500 million each. Bharti Global Ltd, the overseas arm of Bharti, operates out of London, and its investment portfolio spans telecom, technology, hospitality, transportation and energy. OneWeb was formed in 2012, with a mission to offer high speed, and low latency wireless broadband access to a large market.

CYBER SAFETY

NCSC URGES COMPANIES TO GET CYBER SECURITY AUDIT DONE

New Delhi: National Cyber Security Coordinator Lt Gen Rajesh Pant on Friday asked companies to get their cyber security audit done as the country looks to cut dependency on foreign softwares. He also said that companies should focus on their human resources since human beings are the weakest link in cyber security. "All companies are expected to have a cyber audit done. The audit is done by an empanelled auditor and we have many auditors empanelled in India as on today. A lot of companies focus on minimum audits but more needs to be done. I urge all enterprises to get their cyber audits done, for your own good," he said.

MARKET WATCH

MARKET
177.72 ▲ Sensex 36,021.42 | 55.65 ▲ Nifty 10,607.35

GOLD
₹34.2 ▲ 24 carat (1 gm) ₹4,830.8 | ₹46.5 ▲ 22 carat (1 gm) ₹4,811.5

SILVER
₹1,470 ▲ Per kg ₹48,580 | ₹1.47 ▲ Per gm ₹48.5

FOREX
▲ Dollar 75.58 | ▲ Euro 84.89

Indian shipments halted by B'desh

Around 2,600 export cargo trucks are stranded at the India-Bangladesh border, says FIEO

ANURADHA SHUKLA @New Delhi

AFTER China, Indian exporters are now facing fresh trouble at the Bangladesh border with Indian consignments worth $1,000 million held up.

According to highly placed sources in the Commerce Ministry, certain consignments from Bangladesh had been restricted by India in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a retaliatory measure, the Bangladesh government has now halted consignments from India worth $1,000 million.

According to exporters, several trucks are currently stranded at the India-Bangladesh border ports: Petrapole and Ghojadanga in India and Benapole and Bhomra in Bangladesh.

"After China, now fresh trouble has begun at Bangladesh. Our consignments worth $1,009 million are stranded and aren't being allowed into Bangaladesh. We have taken the matter to both the Centre and the West Bengal government," an exporter said, adding that the Commerce Ministry has assured them that it will resolve the matter soon.

"We have received reports of halting of consignments at the Bangladesh border. As per our understanding, some import consignments from Bangladesh were halted due to the covid-19 outbreak in West Bengal, after which they stopped our imports. Talks are on and the matter will be resolved soon," a commerce ministry official said. However, officials also noted that there was no tension on the diplomatic level and said the move was triggered after the West Bengal government's decision that truck drivers should go through a 14-day quarantine before they could be allowed to enter the state. This shut down land-border trade completely, they said.

"The situation on the ground has worsened over the last couple of days and Bangladesh has completely stopped allowing entry of new export trucks," the Federation of Indian Exporters Organisations (FIEO) said, confirming the development. According to FIEO, about 2,100 Indian export cargo trucks are stranded at Petrapole. Another 500 to 550 trucks and tankers, including those carrying perishable items, are waiting at the Benapole and Bhomra borders. Bangladesh has completely stopped imports from India from June 29.

Responsibility India's, says Bangladesh

Reports quote Bangladesh foreign minister AK Abdul Momen saying that it was the responsibility of the Indian government since they have been allowing Indian drivers in, but India has blocked passage.

DOMESTIC ORDER BOOK WORTH ₹48K CR?

- According to the APP, the demand for emission-control upgradations is likely to open up opportunities for local companies
- Emission control tenders for total thermal power capacity worth 120,722 MW has not yet been awarded by power producers
- This could open up an order book as big as around ₹48,000 crore for the domestic power equipment-makers
- Local manufacturers like BHEL, L&T, GE, ISGEC, and Thermax can be asked to ramp up capacities, it said in a letter.

India shuts door on power gear imports from China

JONATHAN ANANDA @New Delhi

INDIA has decided to shut the door on power equipment imports from countries like China, which feature in its Prior Reference Category (PRC) list.

While supporting the move, industry executives also warn that it will lead to delays in complying with emission-reduction norms. Over three-quarters of India's thermal power plants (TPP) are likely to miss the December 31, 2020, deadline, since most emission-reducing gear is sourced from China, the Association of Power Producers observed.

India's power sector has been dependent on its northern neighbour for a large variety of equipment, especially in the solar and emissions-control segments. According to Power Minister R K Singh, India imported nearly ₹71,000 crore worth of power sector equipment in fiscal year 2018-19, of which China alone contributed ₹21,000 crore.

"This is something we cannot tolerate... (from) a country (that) transgresses into our territory.... we will not take anything from China and Pakistan," Singh said while speaking at a virtual conference with state power ministers on Friday. "We will not give permission for imports from Prior Reference Countries," he added.

The PRC list currently comprises several countries from which threats to Indian interests may originate, such as China, Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Sudan.

Singh also asked his state-level counterparts to stop any procurement orders from China for power distribution companies under their control. A constant concern with such imported equipment—highly advanced electronics goods, in particular—is that they may contain software which could be weaponised by enemy actors.

"There could be malware or trojan horse in those... which they can activate remotely," Singh warned.

Orders passed

The Ministry of Power has already passed relevant orders. In an order dated July 2, the ministry said that the import of equipment from PRC countries will "require prior permission of the Government of India". Even if such imports are allowed in special cases, officials say, the order also mandates that all such gear will be tested in India to weed out any embedded cyber threats.

Industry seeks more time

Apex industry body Association of Power Producers (APP), while hailing the move, is also seeking an extension of deadlines for compliance with emissions norms.

All Thermal power plants (TPP) are mandated to upgrade their emissions controls systems before December 31, 2022. In a letter to Power minister Singh, APP director-general Ashok Khurana wrote that the ban on Chinese equipment will impact this goal. Industry executives say that only 20-30 per cent of such components are made locally, with 70-80 per cent imported from China. "It is evident that as many as 77% of the total TPP units... have not yet awarded the EPC contracts. These are highly likely to miss their timelines...," he said.

ZERO DEBT

Intel Capital picks up stake in Jio Platforms

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

US-based chipmaker Intel Corp's investment arm will invest ₹1,894.50 crore in Reliance Industries' (RIL) digital venture Jio Platforms, making it the twelfth high-profile investment in the firm in less than three months. The deal entails a 0.39 per cent stake for Intel in Jio Platform, giving the business an equity value of ₹4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of ₹5.16 lakh crore, RIL said on Friday.

"We are extremely delighted to deepen our ties with technology leaders that embody our vision of transforming India into a leading Digital Society in the world. We are therefore excited to work together with Intel to advance India's capabilities in cutting-edge technologies that will empower all sectors of our economy," Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries said in a statement.

With this investment, Jio Platforms has raised ₹1,17,588 crore from marquee firms including Facebook, Silver Lake Partners (two investments), Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, TPG, L Catterton and Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund PIF and now Intel for 25.09 per cent holding. Jio is expected to use its 385 million wireless phone subscribers as the cornerstone of an e-commerce and digital services business to rival Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart. The stake sale together with a record ₹53,124 crore rights issue has helped RIL reduce net-debt to zero.

New issue of Bharat Bond ETF starts July 14, Govt eyes ₹14K cr fund raise

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

IN a bid to meet its divestment target this fiscal year, the Centre will launch the second tranche of the Bharat Bond ETF on July 14 with a goal of raising ₹14,000 crore.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management has roped in Edelweiss Asset Management for the issue. The exchange traded fund (ETF) will invest in constituents of the Nifty Bharat Bond Indices consisting of AAA-rated public sector companies and will raise an initial amount of ₹2,000 crore with a green shoe option of ₹6,000 crore in 2025 maturity, and a second one with initial amount of ₹1,000 crore with a green shoe option of ₹5,000 crore in 2031 maturity, based on market demand.

The Bharat Bond Fund of Funds (FOF), with similar maturities, will be launched for investors who do not have demat accounts. The new fund offer will start from July 14 and end on July 17.

DIPAM secretary Tuhin Kant Pandey also said that the government will also consider including AA-rated securities of public listed companies going forward, since it is looking at strengthening and deepening the market for the Bharat ETF portfolio. The first series of the Bharat Bond ETF was launched in December 2019 and was highly successful, raising more than ₹12,400 crore. In the current fiscal year, the government has set a divestment target of ₹2.10 lakh crore, out of which ₹1.20 lakh crore is to come from CPSEs alone. However, these plans were disrupted due to the pandemic.

AAA-RATED FIRMS

₹2K cr — to be raised from 2025 maturity bond issue

₹6K cr — Green-shoe option for the 2025 bond issue

The department has also extended the bid deadlines for stake sales in both Air India and oil major BPCL. "Many of our strategic transactions are moving forward. There was a little bit of disruption due to Covid-19 and extensions given in terms of EoI, but the government has clarified that we are very much on the same track of aggressively pursuing strategic disinvestment. More focus on that," Pandey said.

Strategic stake sales being pursued right now include Air India, BEML, and Bharat Pumps Compressors.

INVESTMENT

Gold bond issue price fixed at ₹4,852 per gram: RBI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE issue price for the Sovereign Gold Bond has been fixed at ₹4,852 per gram of gold, the Reserve Bank of India said in a statement on Friday. The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21-Series IV will be opened for subscription for the period between July 6 and July 10.

The central bank in April had announced that the government will issue Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) in six tranches beginning April 20 till September. Sovereign Gold Bond 2020-21 will be issued by RBI on behalf of the Government of India.

"The nominal value of the bond based on the simple average closing price (published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association) for gold of 999 purity of the last three working days of the week preceding the subscription period...works out to ₹4,852 per gram of gold," the RBI said.

It also said it has been decided by the Government and the RBI to offer a discount of ₹50 per gram less than the nominal value to those investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode.

India's IT majors likely to pounce on M&As

BISMAH MALIK @Bengaluru

INDIA's top IT services exporters—Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and Wipro—are likely to strengthen their acquisition business models in line with global trends going forward. Many overseas firms having put projects at captive global information centres (GICs) on hold due to the pandemic and Indian IT service companies may smell an opportunity here—acquire some of these captive GICs or smaller firms since valuations have dropped considerably.

According to a research note by apex IT industry body Nasscom, though the IT sector globally has shown some resilience, there has been a drop in valuation of many companies, presenting acquisition opportunities.

WIPRO TAKEOVERS

Company has recently bought HealthPlan Services (HPS), Appirio, Designit, Cooper, and International TechneGroup

Globally, the top five tech companies—Facebook, Amazon, Alphabet, Apple and Microsoft—had a cash reserve of $471 billion as of April, 2020. This could also be used to fund new deals, according to Bain and Co. These tech giants have already embarked on an acquisition spree with special focus on verticals like digital engagement, virtual collaboration, cloud, "as-a-service-offerings", data analytics, artificial intelligence, security and automation.

For India, leading IT companies are also cash-rich with reserves of over $13 billion as of April, 2020, but no fresh acquisitions were announced during the pandemic. However, management at TCS, Wipro and Infosys indicated that they were hunting for good merger and acquisition (M&A) opportunities while releasing their most recent financial reports.

According to its annual report, Infosys had invested ₹3,032 crore on acquisitions during FY20. In February, it acquired Simplus, a US-based Salesforce partner, for $250 million. "We have enough of headroom and we'll have to see if any assets come up which interests us during this period, but we are open to everything at this stage," Infosys' CEO Salil Parekh had said.

TCS, meanwhile, has also indicated that it is not shy of M&A opportunities. "Our largest M&A to date was actually executed at the peak of the global financial crisis. We are not shy of M&A and we believe that the best time to execute it is when nobody else is buying," TCS CEO Rajesh Gopinathan said in the previous earnings call.

LOOKING OVERSEAS

TTK Prestige eyes ten-fold increase in exports in 5 years

BINITA JAISWAL @Chennai

KITCHEN appliances major TTK Prestige is eyeing a sharp, over ten-fold increase in its exports over the next five years. The company has set itself a target of reaching ₹500 crore in exports by 2025 from the current level of ₹50 crore annually.

According to Chairman T T Jagannathan, TTK is confident about achieving the target since its exports have been growing at a substantial pace and their overseas customers have indicated increasing their orders. "Our export customers are looking to increase their sourcing from the company. It is a positive sign," said Jagannathan while speaking to *TNIE*. Currently, the company's exports comprise only 3.5 per cent of its revenue.

However, it aims to increase this share to 12.5 per cent in the next five years. Jagannathan said that after the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns pushed people into cooking more at home, dependence on domestic kitchens have increased. This trend will definitely boost the sales of kitchen appliances, he said.

"Our exports are growing by 50 per cent year after year. Due to the lockdown, our shipments were stuck and we witnessed a little fall in exports this financial year. But, since the last week of May, our exports have picked up," Jagannathan pointed out.

He further added that the company will be continuously innovating and launching new products, especially in the pressure cooker category, to enhance its footprint in the international market. The company is expanding its distribution network consistently and expecting robust sales through the online channel. Alongside a significant rise in its exports, the company is also expecting to increase its turnover to ₹4,000 crore by FY 2024-25. This fiscal year, while the company had expected a turnover of ₹2,100-2,200 crore, sales were affected due to the lockdown, making achieving the target a difficult task.

"(But,) we are witnessing an uptick in demand and robust sales will definitely help us to achieve the target," he said. Domestic sales of TTK Prestige accounted for ₹1,895 crore in revenue in fiscal 2019-20 against ₹1,917 crore in 2018-19. Exports stood at ₹42 crore against ₹51 crore in the previous year.

Exports are growing 50% year after year. Due to the lockdown, some shipments were stuck and we saw a little fall. But, they've picked up from the last week of May...

T T Jagannathan, chairman, TTK Prestige

LOCAL AIR TRAFFIC TO PLUNGE 46% IN FY21

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

SUSPENSION of all air services following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic is expected to impact the aviation industry's growth prospects severely. According to ratings agency ICRA, FY2021 (2020-21) is expected to witness a 41-46 per cent de-growth in domestic passenger traffic, while international passenger growth for Indian carriers is likely to witness a year-on-year fall of 67-72 per cent.

All scheduled domestic passenger air services had been suspended for two months—from March 25 to May 25, 2020. Subsequently, scheduled domestic flights recommenced operations with effect from May 25, 2020 to a limited extent, at a maximum of one-third of their respective approved capacity.

ICRA expects H2FY21 will witness some recovery, with Q4 FY21 witnessing a y-o-y de-growth of just 3-14 per cent in domestic passenger traffic with improved passenger load factors (PLFs). Similarly, international traffic is expected to improve sequentially, with Q4 FY21 likely to contract 30-40 per cent.

Bayern get Sane from Man City for $56.3mn

Bayern Munich have signed Leroy Sane from Manchester City. As per reports, the deal set the Bavarians back for $56.3 million, less than half what the club expected to pay last year before he sustained a serious knee injury. City were already resigned to losing the 24-year-old forward, who had one year left on his contract.

Confusion cloud over Olympiad team

AICF's Chauhan faction releases list claiming rivals have prepared another, Raja camp says names not final yet

ATREYO MUKHOPADHYAY @Chennai

TEAM selection for Online Chess Olympiad has become another point of dispute in the All India Chess Federation (AICF). There are claims that two warring factions have selected different teams, which is unlikely, considering that ranking is the sole criterion for selection. There is confusion nonetheless, with both sides accusing each other of causing it.

The Online Olympiad is an initiative of world body FIDE, to be held from July 22 to August 30. National federations can send six-member teams. Teams have to include at least two women, one girl under 20 and a boy under 20. There can be reserve players for each of the six slots.

The AICF faction headed by Bharat Singh Chauhan has released a list of players. Chauhan said this was done in consultation with the selection committee. Names of Viswanathan Anand, Vidit Gujrathi, P Harikrishna (reserve), B Adhiban (reserve), Koneru Humpy, D Harika, Bhakti Kulkarni (reserve), Tania Sachdev (reserve), Nihal Sarin, R Praggnanandhaa, R Vaishali and Divya Deshmukh feature in this list.

Chauhan said the faction headed by president PR Venketrama Raja has also selected a team, where the last four names are different. Vijay Deshpande — who is acting secretary according to the Raja group which suspended Chauhan in March — said he has not selected any team, but sent names to the selection committee for approval. Both sides said there is time for the names to be sent to FIDE and that the matter should be sorted by then.

"We sent tentative names for the approval of the committee. For under-20, I suggested the national championship list, but the committee told me to take names from the ranking list. We have sent those also and are waiting for the green signal from the committee. I don't think there will be different teams. We are hoping to release the names on Saturday. I can't comment on words others are spreading to misguide," said Deshpande.

Chauhan said he, too, is going by the rule book. "I have followed what AICF rules prescribe and consulted the selection committee, which approved the names I forwarded. But the other faction has got in touch with players who should not be considered if follows the rankings."

It can be noted that even though the other faction doesn't recognise Chauhan as secretary, it was he who attended a meeting with the sports ministry last week, along with Raja. This suggests the ministry sees him as secretary. Eventually, if names in two teams are different, which ones will be accepted is the question. Meanwhile, players remain uncertain.

EQUESTRIAN

Competition relief for Fouaad in Germany

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

WHEN Fouaad Mirza returned to competition a few weeks ago, he sensed that he was returning to a very different world than the one he left in February. For starters, "I was given a contact tracing form and only then I was allowed to enter the venue," he said from Germany.

"I'm given a band that I have to wear on my hand at all times. Without it, you are not allowed entry."

Other measures include limiting number of helpers for riders. "When I used to even bring one horse for shows, I could take 10 to the warm-up area. Now zero. If I take three horses, I'm given one." The other thing the Bengalurean straightaway observed from the two shows he took part in was the number of competitors each meet had. "Usually, there are 200. Now you have around 70-80." But he isn't complaining.

When other Indian athletes are still under various phases of lockdown, Fouaad knows he is lucky to get 'valuable match practice'. "I'm treating it as match practice ahead of the CCI 4-star long format Olympic qualifiers (he needs to meet a minimum eligibility requirement criteria to seal his Olympic spot), but I don't know when those qualifiers will be. All I can do is practice."

It's also important that his horses get to experience the feel of competition, especially Dajara 4, one of the younger horses. "The younger ones tend to get a little excited and during the weekend, I felt he was a bit unfocused. The older ones don't suffer from that. So even the horses need to have the feel of the surroundings."

Even as Fouaad plots the way forward, it's easy to sense that the threat of the virus has not receded. "Some shows have already got cancelled as parts of Germany went back into lockdown. We are hoping this doesn't continue. One can only hope."

Those four words — one can only hope at the moment — is the new normal as athletes around the world plan their comeback.

Sports Code compliance must for recognition: HC

PTI/EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi/Chennai

THE Delhi High Court denied sports ministry's application seeking directive to grant provisional recognition to National Sports Federation on Friday. The court told the ministry that they could not allow provisional recognition without ascertaining whether the 57 NSFs are following the National Sports Development Code of India (2011) or not. However, court also said it would allow the NSFs to prepare and train athletes for various sporting events. But an order will be passed only after hearing the other side.

"We won't allow provisional system to go on without the NSFs following the sports code. That is not going to happen. Ask the NSFs to put their house in order," a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Najmi Waziri said. The observation by the bench came while hearing a plea moved by the sports ministry seeking permission to grant provisional 'annual' recognition to 57 NSFs so that they can commence training of sportspersons for the Olympics next year. It, however, issued notice to sports lawyer Rahul Mehra and sought his stand on the application which was filed in his petition moved in 2010 for probe into various sports bodies.

The high court also asked Mehra to indicate in his affidavit which of the 57 NSFs were not adhering to the sports code and which are, so that provisional recognition may be granted to those complying with the code.

Hockey Coorg, BHA left worried

ASHIM SUNAM @Bengaluru

HOCKEY India's one-state-one-unit rule, which came into effect from Wednesday, has left Bengaluru Hockey Association (BHA) and Hockey Coorg worried. The two associations along with Hockey Karnataka used to field a team each in the nationals in the past. The rule means only Hockey Karnataka will be HI's affiliated unit and can field a team for the national championships.

The national body in January wrote a letter to ten associate units, including BHA (erstwhile Karnataka Hockey Association) and Hockey Coorg, stating their membership would be withdrawn after July 1. The BHA replied immediately to the HI, asking if the status quo could be maintained and they can feature in the nationals. They, however, were told that 'it was IOA's decision'. The BHA has not heard anything so far even after writing to the Indian Olympics Association, claimed BHA secretary K Krishnamurthy.

There is a general feeling among both the BHA and Hockey Coorg that the move will make life difficult for players. "The decision will be detrimental to the players' interests. When it comes to Hockey Karnataka, most of the players are from DYES (Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports) and Sports Authority of India. BHA gives chances to players at the district level, who could not make it to DYES and SAI. Most of these (district) players come from humble beginnings. If there is only one team, it will be difficult for such players, who might lose interest in hockey," said Krishnamurthy, who remains hopeful that the IOA will show some empathy and make an exception, whereby they can participate in the nationals.

If the said policy is not overturned, Hockey Coorg will also lose the right to take part in the nationals. Hockey is extremely popular in Coorg and several players including SV Sunil, SK Uthappa, Nikkin Thimmaiah, Nithin Thimmaiah, VR Raghunath among others have represented the country.

The Coorg body is primarily worried about the future of promising kids, who have it in them to make it to the top in the coming years. "When one plays at the national level, they get huge experience. It is an ideal opportunity for players to impress the selectors, which in turn can help them play for the country. With this rule, I fear for kids in the junior and the sub-junior categories. The young kids might not get much chance and they might sink into oblivion," said B Chengappa, Hockey Coorg's secretary.

EXPRESS READ

Probe on for T20 played in Mohali

CHENNAI: THE BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) has taken the note of an unauthorised T20 played near Chandigarh but streamed online as a game in Sri Lanka, and is waiting for police to unearth details of those involved. While Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has disowned the match and vowed to take legal action, the Punjab police has launched an investigation to ascertain if a betting racket was involved. As per reports, the game on June 29 in Sawara (16km from Chandigarh) was streamed as a Uva T20 League match in Badulla city, home of the Uva Province Cricket Association.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT TRUST
(PORT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT)
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 27001:2013, ISO 45001:2018 CERTIFIED
SHORT e-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No.: PPD/M-I/Landing Jetty/Rehab/T-49/2020 dt. 03/07/2020
Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust invites e-tender from **04/07/2020 to 23/07/2020** for the work of **"Rehabilitation and Strengthening of Existing Landing Jetty at JN Port"**. The estimated cost of the work is ₹ **4,27,78,976/-**. Detailed Notice Inviting Tender is available on JNPT website **www.jnport.gov.in** or **https://eprocure.gov.in**
Chief Manager (PP & DD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN– U40102RJ2000SGC016484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
CHHABRA THERMAL POWER STATION, CHHABRA
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 323(RVU2021WLOB00473)
Online tenders are invited for **Annual contract for the work of complete operation, maintenance and housekeeping of Coal Handling Plant**. Tender details are available on websites **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl** & **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**.
Raj.samwad/C/20/1723 RVUN/PR-3401 Addl. Chief Engineer (O&M)

CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION
1, NAWAB YUSUF ROAD, CIVIL LINES, PRAYAGRAJ-211001
Corrigendum Publish Date: 01.07.2020 19:28
CORRIGENDUM No. 14
Closing Date/Time 28.07.2020 11:00
Tender No.: ELCORE-OHE-EPC-08-Re (Open Tender)
Name Of Work: EPC TENDER: Request for Proposal For Electrification of Railway Lines of the various sections of Northern Railway Total RKM / TKM 880.04/1024.30 On Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Mode. [Bid/Package No. EPC-08].
Items Modified: NIT Header

Field Name	Existing Value	Modified Value
Tender Closing Date Time	21.07.2020 11:00	28.07.2020 11:00
Bidding Start Date	07.07.2020	14.07.2020

PR/441/2020/ANU website: www.ireps.gov.in
"Serving Customers with a Smile"

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)
TENDER NOTICE
e-tenders are invited for the supply of following items.
(1) Contract for Transportation of Goods by providing various types of Goods / Special Purpose Vehicles on Hired basis as & when required with driver and with/without skilled/unskilled labourers for material handling for the contractual period of 3 years.
RE-INVITED E-TENDERS
(2) 67529, (3) 44795, (4) 67924.
Note : For more details, log on to website **https://mahatenders.gov.in.**
PRO/AAM(M)/22/2020. GENERAL MANAGER

Government of Karnataka.
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWP & IWT DEPT. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
I.F.T.No:EE/PWP& IWTD/VJP/PB/Nabard RIDF-25/2020-21/00737 Date:02.07.2020
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (3rd CALL)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (E-Procurement)
The Executive Engineer, PWP & IWT Dept. Division, Vijayapur Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department) for 1 work as per standard bid documents KW-3 with Nabard R.I.D.F-25 head of account, costing of amount for Rs. **72.00** Lakhs, the EMD amount of **Rs.1,44,000.00** for the works. For above works G.S.T amount will be paid to the Contractor separately and Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows 1) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders **Date:13.07.2020 upto 4.30 PM.** 2) Opening of Technical Bid **Date:15.07.2020 at 11.00 AM.** 3) Opening of Financial Bid **Date:16.07.2020 at 11.00 AM.** Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "**eproc.karnataka.gov.in**" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) or office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWP & IWT Dept. Dn, Vijayapur
DIPR/Vijayapura/155 /JA/2020-21

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004.
CIN: U40109KA2002 SGC 030425 Website: www.mesco.in
Phone: 0824-2885795 E-mail: sepmescom@gmail.com
No: MESCOM/SEE(P)/EE(W)/AEE(W)/2020-21/4189 Date: 26.06.2020
TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Portal Only)
MESCOM invites tenders for the following works pertaining to Udupi & Mangalore Circles vide respective bid enquiry numbers:-

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Reconductoring work of existing 33kV Manipal-Shirva single circuit Rabbit conductor line by Coyote conductor from existing 110/33/11kV Manipal MUSS to 2x5 MVA, 33/11kV Shirva Sub-station to a distance of 9.62RKms in Kaup Sub-division of Udupi Division on Total Turnkey Basis. Bid Enquiry No.:**MESCOM/2019-20/EL/WORK_INDENT1390/CALL-2**
2	Formation of new 11kV Kumaramangala, Kaikamba, Manjunathnagara & Manikar feeders from proposed 110/33/11kV Madavu MUSS by using rabbit conductor & UG cable for the distance of 5.43kms (4.36DC+ 1.07SC line) & 1.20kms respectively in Kumbra section of Puttur Rural Sub-division, Puttur division on Total Turnkey basis. Bid Enquiry No.: **MESCOM/2019-20/EL/WORK_INDENT1352/CALL-3**

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **04.07.2020**
Superintending Engineer (Ele.)(Proc), MESCOM, Mangalore
For Power Related Complaints and Assistant Call Toll Free Number 1912

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA PUBLIC WORKS, PORT & INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT. TUMKUR
Division, Karnataka, Telephone: 0816 2272479
No.EE/KPWD/Tmk/JE.2/.T.No.09/2020-21/ Date: 01.07.2020
Invitation For Tenders (IFT) KW. 3.
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION.
On behalf of Government of Karnataka tenders are invited in Two cover system for Class-3 & above Contractors registered in PWD for 01 work under different Head of accounts in the jurisidiction of Tumkur Division through e-procurement. The dates are published as below.
(1) Last date for tender information queries: **02.07.2020: 16.00**
(2) Last date for submission of tender: **10.07.2020: 16.00**
(3) Date of opening the Technical bid: **13.07.2020 : 11.00**
(4) Date of opening the Financial bid: **16.07.2020 : 11.00.**
Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
DIPR/SHIRDI SAI/TUMKUR/3/2020-21 PW,P&IWTD DIVISION, TUMKUR.

Government of Karnataka
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department
Office of the The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Davangere,
Phone: 08192-262126. Email -id :- eerwsdvg@gmail.com
No. 208 /2020-21 Date: - 30.06.2020
Short-term Tender Notification for Annual Maintainance Contract for LAB Equipments
On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division Davangere Invites e-Tender in two cover system from Manufacturers/ Authorised Distributors/Suppliers for the maintainance of Water Quality Testing equipments at the District and Taluk level Laboratories. The eligible bidders are required to submit through E-Procurement mode through portal **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
More details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned and also through **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by clicking **List of Tenders** which will link to all Dept. works list.
[illegible] 154/[illegible]/2020-21
Sd/- Executive Engineer
RDW&S Division, Davangere.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer Project South, South Zone Office Complex, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bangalore-560011
No.: EEP(S)/E-Procu/14/2020-21 Date : 03-07-2020
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors for the below mentioned construction works.

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Approx. Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Construction of Indoor stadium and gym at multipurpose building in ward no. 163 Karthriguppe. **(As per KW-3)**	250.00	3,75,000/-
2	Providing infrastructure ambience and amenities to newly constructed multipurpose building at ward no. 163 Karthriguppe. **(As per KW-3)**	150.00	2,25,000/-

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-Procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in (2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting: **10.07.2020 at 3.00 PM at above office. (3)** Last date of receipt of tender: **21.07.2020 upto 4.00 PM. (4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **23.07.2020 at 4.30 PM. (5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **27.07.2020 at 4.00 PM or After Technical bid approval.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project South
"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"

भारत सरकार, अंतरिक्ष विभाग GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
मुख्य नियंत्रण सुविधा MASTER CONTROL FACILITY
पी.बी. सं.66, सालगामे रोड P.B. No. 66, SALAGAME ROAD,
हासन HASSAN – 573 201 (कर्नाटक KARNATAKA)
निविदा सूचना /TENDER NOTICE NO. MCF/PT/20/02
भारत के राष्टपति की ओर से क्रय एवं भंडार अधिकारी, मुख्य नियंत्रण सुविधा (एमसीएफ), सालगामे रोड, हासन–573201, कर्नाटक निम्न के लिए **निविदाएं** आमंत्रित करते हैं: / On behalf of the President of India, Purchase & Stores Officer, Master Control Facility, Salagame Road, Hassan-572301, Karnataka, invites tender as following:

क्र.सं. Sl.No.	संदर्भ संख्या Ref. No	वस्तु विवरण Item Description	अंतिम तिथि Due Date (16:30 Hrs)
01	MHDI 202000014401	Annual contract for hiring of taxis at MCF Hassan for a period of two years (Maximum 8 taxis per day). Terms & Conditions as per Annexure-I and Price Bid Format as per Annexure-II.	29.07.2020

उपर्लिखित निविदा के लिए रु 500 / – निविदा शुल्क लागू है, जोकि लेखा अधिकारी, मुख्य नियन्त्रण सुविधा, हासन के पक्ष में डीडी के रूप में भेजा जाना चाहिए। निविदा दस्तावेज निम्न माध्यमों से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है:
1) निविदा दस्तावेज को निर्मलिखित लिंक **https://www.isro.gov.in/sites/default/files/tenders/mhdi_2020-000144-01.pdf** से डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं
2) निविदा दस्तावेज़ को क्रय और भंडार अधिकारी (क्रय), मुख्य नियंत्रण सुविधा, हसन को ईमेल के माध्यम से प्राप्त जा सकता है। (ईमेल **pso-purchase@mcf.gov.in**)
3) निविदा दस्तावेज़ को रु 500/– के डीडी (निविदा शुल्क) को क्रय और भंडार अधिकारी (क्रय), मुख्य नियन्त्रण सुविधा, सालगाम रोड, हासन को भेज कर प्राप्त जा सकता है।
नोट: यदि निविदा दस्तावेज अनुक्रमांक संख्या 1 और 2 के अनुसार प्राप्त किया जाता है, तो निविदा शुल्क रु 500/– को लेखा अधिकारी, मुख्य नियंत्रण सुविधा, हासन के नाम पर बनी डीडी अलग लिफाफे के ऊपर निविदा शुल्क लिख कर बोली के लिफाफे में भेजना अनिवार्य है।
For above mentioned Tender, Tender fee of Rs. 500/- is applicable, same shall be submitted in the form of DD in favor of Accounts Officer, MCF Hassan. The tender document is available through following modes:
1) The tender document can be downloaded from following link **https://www.isro.gov.in/sites/default/files/tenders/mhdi_2020-000144-01.pdf**
2) Tender document can be obtained through email addressed to Purchase & Stores Officer (Purchase), Master Control Facility, Hassan. [email: **pso-purchase@mcf.gov.in**]
3) Tender document can also be obtained through post/courier after submitting DD (tender fee) to Purchase & Stores Officer (Purchase), Master Control Facility, Salagame Road, Hassan-573201,
Note: In case Tender Document is obtained as per Sl. No. 1 & 2, a DD in favor of Accounts Officer, MCF Hassan, it is mandatory to submit along with bid document in separate envelop superscribing as Tender Fee.
क्रय व भंडार अधिकारी / Purchase & Stores Officer

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಕನೀನಿನಿ ಘಟಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 2, ಹಿಡಕಲ್‌ಡ್ಯಾಂ
ಕಚೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08333-263242 / ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ ಸಂ: 08333-263405 / ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: eegrbc2@gmail.com
ಸಂ: ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ಜಿಆರ್‌ಬಿಸಿ-2/ಡಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2020-21/600 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03-07-2020.
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)
ಮಾನ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಜಿಆರ್‌ಬಿಸಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 2 ಹಿಡಕಲ್ ಡ್ಯಾಂ, ತಾ: ಹುಕ್ಕೇರಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಇವರು ಆಧಾರದ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ರೂಲ್ 28ರನ್ವಯ Two Cover System (ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟಿ) ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದವರೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರಗಳು ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

Number of works	1 No.
Estimated Cost Put to Tender	Rs. 76.75 Lakhs
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 77,500.00
Last Date and Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications	06-07-2020 Up to 17:00 Hrs
Pre bid meeting at CE office	07-07-2020 Up to 11.30 Hrs
Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders / Bids through e-portal	15-07-2020 Up to 17:30 Hrs
Date and time for Opening technical bid	17-07-2020 Time: 11.00 Hrs Onwards
Date and time for Opening financial bid	21-07-2020 Time: 11.00 Hrs Onwards Or After having approval for technical bid from competent authority.

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According to a study published in the *Journal of Hepatology*, repeated measurements of the biomarker FIB-4 in human blood every few years can predict the risk of developing severe liver disease.

Monkeys develop short-term immunity

COVID-19 RESPONSE

WASHINGTON: Test monkeys infected with the novel coronavirus responsible for the Covid-19 pandemic were protected from reinfection for up to 28 days later, a Chinese study out on Thursday in the journal *Science* said.

While the monkeys displayed initial immunity, it's unclear how long such immunity will last in humans — it will be necessary to wait months, or even years, to know if the millions of people infected at the start of the pandemic are protected from re-infection.

Scientists from Peking Union Medical College performed an experiment on rhesus macaques, often used because of their similarities to humans, to find out if they have a short-term immunity to the virus.

Six rhesus macaques were infected in their trachea with a dose of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. They developed mild to moderate symptoms, and took about two weeks to recover.

Twenty-eight days after the first infection, four of the six monkeys received another dose of virus, but this time, despite a brief rise in temperature, they showed no sign of reinfection, the study authors wrote.

By taking frequent samples the researchers discovered that the peak viral load was reached three days after the monkeys were infected.

The monkeys showed a stronger immune response after the first infection, producing more so-called neutralising antibodies which may have protected them against short-term reinfection, the scientists wrote in the study.

EXFILE

E-waste surges 21% in 5 yrs

About 54 million metric tonnes (Mt) of e-waste was generated worldwide in 2019, up 21 per cent in just five years, according to the UN's Global E-waste Monitor 2020. We take a look

NEW PREDICTIONS

The report predicts global e-waste — discarded products with a battery or plug — will reach 74 Mt by 2030

FASTEST GROWING WASTE STREAM

This makes e-waste the world's fastest-growing domestic waste stream, fuelled mainly by higher consumption rates of electric and electronic equipment, short life cycles, and few options for repair

17.4% of 2019's e-waste was collected and recycled

VALUABLE GARBAGE

$57 BN worth of gold, silver, copper, platinum and other high-value, recoverable materials were mostly dumped or burned rather than being collected for treatment and reuse

CONTINENT WISE E-WASTE REPORT 2019

2019's e-waste weighed as much as 350 cruise ships the size of the Queen Mary 2

HEALTH HAZARD

Electronic waste contain toxic additives and hazardous substances such as mercury, which can damage our brain and affect neurological functioning

50 TONNES

of mercury — used in monitors, PCBs and fluorescent and energy-saving light sources — are contained in undocumented flows of e-waste annually

KEY FINDINGS

98 Mt of CO_2-equivalents were released into the atmosphere from discarded fridges and air-conditioners last year

0.3% of global greenhouse gas emissions was sourced to this release

E-WASTE POLICY

78 Number of countries that have adopted a national e-waste policy

DECODING MYSTERY OF 'HAPPY HYPOXIA'

Study explains how Covid patients with life-threatening levels of oxygen show no signs of breathing difficulty

A patient connected to a ventilator in a Covid-19 ICU in Houston | AFP

SAVING VENTILATORS

WASHINGTON: Scientists have found a possible explanation for why some Covid-19 patients experience extremely low, otherwise life-threatening levels of oxygen, known as happy hypoxia, but no signs of difficulty in breathing.

The new understanding of the condition, also known as silent hypoxemia, could prevent unnecessary intubation and ventilation in patients during the current and expected second wave of coronavirus, according to the study published in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

Happy hypoxia "is especially bewildering to physicians as it defies basic biology," said Martin J Tobin, a professor at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, in the US.

The study included 16 Covid-19 patients with very low levels of oxygen — as low as 50 per cent compared to normal blood oxygen saturation between 95 and 100 per cent — without shortness of breath or dyspnea.

The researchers found that "several pathophysiological mechanisms account for most, if not all, cases of silent hypoxemia." This includes the initial assessment of a patient's oxygen level with a pulse oximeter, they said.

"While a pulse oximeter is remarkably accurate when oxygen readings are high, it markedly exaggerates the severity of low levels of oxygen when readings are low," said Tobin.

He noted that another factor is how the brain responds to low levels of oxygen.

"As oxygen levels drop in patients with Covid-19, the brain does not respond until oxygen falls to very low levels — at which point a patient typically becomes short of breath," said Tobin.

In addition, more than half of the patients had low levels of carbon dioxide, which may diminish the impact of an extremely low oxygen level, the researchers said.

"It is also possible that the coronavirus is exerting a peculiar action on how the body senses low levels of oxygen," said Tobin, which could be linked to the lack of smell, experienced by two-thirds of Covid-19 patients.

Testing oral secretions help cut false -ve results

NEW FINDINGS

BEIJING: Testing of secretions from the mouth and pharynx of a person may reduce the number of false negative results from nasal swab tests of patients who have seemingly recovered from the disease, according to a study.

In the study, published in the *Journal of Dental Research*, a small number of patients that had tested negative through nasopharyngeal swabs (NPS) were found to be positive through the testing of oropharyngeal secretions.

It included 75 ready-for-discharge Covid-19 patients who tested negative using two consecutive nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) of viral samples retrieved with NPS, according to the researchers from Huazhong University of Science and Technology. Because of detection of potential false-negatives in that cohort, NAAT results of paired OS and NPS samples collected from 50 additional Covid-19 recruits during their recovery stage were used in a second prospective study to compare the diagnostic values of the two viral RNA sampling methods.

Oropharyngeal secretions obtained from two of the 75 subjects in the first study yielded positive results for SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid. In the second study, OS samples were significantly more sensitive for detection of the virus than NPS samples, and missed only 14 per cent of positive cases compared with 59 per cent for the NPS samples.

Guests pose for selfies at the infinity pool of the newly-inaugurated Dolce Hanoi Golden Lake hotel in Hanoi | AFP

Vietnam's 24-carat gold-plated hotel

MIDAS TOUCH

HANOI: For guests at the 'Dolce Hanoi Golden Lake' coffee comes in a gold cup and bath time is taken in gilded splendour. The world's first self-proclaimed gold-plated hotel is open for business — and the Vietnamese owners insist they have the Midas touch despite the cramping of global travel during the pandemic.

The hotel cost $200 million to construct with a 24-carat plating across lobbies, an infinity pool and rooms with even cutlery, cups, shower heads and toilet seats receiving the golden treatment.

While expensive for Vietnam, at $250 a night it is not prohibitive for wealthy locals craving a few nights living like Donald Trump, the US President renowned for his love of all things that glitter.

A gold-plated infinity pool overlooks the city, while meals at the 25-storey hotel in downtown Hanoi may be mixed with a mysterious "gold substance", according to the Hoa Binh group that owns it.

So far, the smattering of customers appear to be delighted with Hanoi's flashiest new digs.

"When I arrived here... I felt like a king, you know, the Pharaoh... the king of Egypt," joked Phillip Park, a South Korean guest.

The relatively modest construction price tag was achieved by sourcing the gold plating locally — significantly reducing costs.

Current virus strain more infectious?

MUTATION

WASHINGTON: The genetic variation of the novel coronavirus that dominates the world today infects human cells more readily than the original that emerged in China, according to a new study published in the journal *Cell* on Thursday.

The lab-based research suggests this current mutation is more transmissible between people in the real world compared to the previous iteration, but this hasn't yet been proven.

"I think the data is showing that there is a single mutation that actually makes the virus be able to replicate better, and maybe have high viral loads," Anthony Fauci, US' top infectious disease specialist, who wasn't involved in the research, commented to *JAMA*. Researchers from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and Duke University in North Carolina partnered with the University of Sheffield's Covid-19 Genomics UK research group to analyse genome samples published on GISAID, an international resource for sharing genome sequences.

They found that the current variant, called "D614G," makes a small but potent change in the "spike" protein that protrudes from the surface of the virus, which it uses to invade and infect human cells.

The scientists first posted their paper to the medical preprint site *bioRxiv* in April, where it received 2,00,000 hits, a record. But it was initially criticised because the scientists had not proved that the mutation itself was responsible for its domination; it could have benefitted from other factors or from chance.

Twitter cleans its coding lingo

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

Twitter has joined efforts to do away with racially loaded terms such as master, slave and blacklist from its coding language in the wake of the death of African-American George Floyd and ensuing Black Lives Matter protests.

The project started even before the current movement for racial justice escalated following the death of 46-year-old George Floyd in police custody in May. The use of terms such as "master" and "slave" in programming language originated decades ago. While "master" is used to refer to the primary version of a code, "slave" refers to the replicas. Similarly, the term "Blacklist" is used to refer to items which are meant to be automatically denied.

MUSICAL BIRDS

Canadian sparrows sing a different tune

VIRAL AVIAN SONG

WASHINGTON: Members of a Canadian sparrow species famous for their jaunty signature song are changing their tune, a curious example of a "viral phenomenon" in the animal kingdom, a study showed on Thursday.

Bird enthusiasts first recorded the white-throated sparrow's original song, with its distinctive triplet hook, in the 1950s. Canadians even invented lyrics to accompany the ditty: "Oh my sweet, Ca-na-da, Ca-na-da, Ca-na-da."

But starting from the late 20th century, biologists began noticing that members of the species in

A white-throated sparrow | AFP

western Canada were innovating.

Instead of a triplet, the new song ended in a doublet and a new syncopation pattern. The new ending sounded like "Ca-na, Ca-na, Ca-na." Over the course of the next two decades, this new cadence became a big hit, moving eastward and conquering Alberta, then Ontario. It began entering Quebec last year.

It's now the dominant version across more than 3,000 kilometres of territory, in an extremely rare example of the total replacement of historic bird dialect by another. Scientist Ken Otter at the University of Northern British Columbia, and his colleague Scott Ramsay from Wilfrid Laurier University, described the dizzying pace of this transformation in the journal *Current Biology*.

"What we're seeing is like somebody moving from Quebec to Paris, and all the people around them saying, 'Wow, that's a cool accent' and start adopting a Quebec accent," Otter told *AFP*.

Their work was based on 1,785 recordings between 2000 and 2019, with contributions from citizen-scientists.

In Alberta, about half of the recorded songs ended with the triplet in 2004; ten years later, all the males had adopted the doublet.

In 2015, half of western Canada had converted to the doublet version, and by last year, the new song had been well established on the western tip of eastern Quebec province.

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SATURDAY

A GIFT
THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES
THIS STATUE
LIBERTY ENLIGHTENING THE WORLD
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAY'S DIARY

Paris's gift to the US

The Statue of Liberty was given as a gift to the US on this day in 1884 by the French people commemorating the alliance of France and the US during the American Revolution

THE TALL STATUE

Without its pedestal, it's as tall as a 15-storey building. Built in France, she represents the US. The statue was taken apart, shipped across the Atlantic Ocean in crates, and rebuilt in America

THE IDEA

French political intellectual Edouard de Laboulaye proposed to build a statue. It was sculpted by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi. The framework was designed by French engineer Gustave Eiffel

THE LOCATION

While Bartholdi was designing the Statue, he also took a trip to the United States in 1871. During the trip, Bartholdi selected Bedloe's Island as the site for the statue

Prajwal Devaraj flaunts a mass avatar in Veeram

PG 4

LESSONS IN LEARNING

Screen time versus studying as an essential part of a child's routine... Chaos and confusion reign as the debate about online classes rages on

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

• Express Features

The jury is still out on the efficacy of online classes for school students. While some parents are wary about the screen time the children are exposed to, others feel the classes are a must to prevent a gap in education. The worst affected by the confusion happen to be primary school kids, whose classes have been caught in a yes-no dilemma.

Deepu Chandran, who has a six-year-old son, has been part of a recent online candle light vigil protesting against restrictions on online education. "These live online classes have helped kids, giving them social interactions and ways to communicate with their peers. The government seems to be attempting to stifle learning for all with its arbitrary guidelines," says Chandran. The request, which trended as #righttolearn on Twitter, is that the government focuses on ensuring education for all and explore all available technologies, including television, radio, online, as some of the neighbouring states have done.

The primary and secondary education department has suggested a web schedule – for classes 1- 10 – until an expert panel submits its final decision. Meanwhile, schools seem to be chalking up their own schedules for online classes.

Noor Jahan Khan, a freelance content writer and single parent of two under class 5, says online learning comes with challenges. While the initial classes during May lasted for over three hours, they have now been reduced to one hour. "I have to forego my laptop for my child's classes, which delays my work. Since my son is in class 1, I can give him my smartphone but the effect it has on him has me worried. He's unable to focus, it hurts his eyes and the communication during these classes seems incomplete," says Khan, who feels that schools should wait for the pandemic situation to settle down.

Others, like Sweta Sheth, point to the upside of such classes. The mother of a Class 3 student had tried homeschooling her daughter with her husband, before the online classes began. "It was tedious since we both are doctors and aren't always home. Schooling has to begin in some manner, of course not for the whole year. But at least for people who need help with their children, online schooling is necessary," says Sheth. Her daughter currently follows a schedule with three sessions of 35 minutes each, with breaks in between.

Ashana K, a director at a city-based HR analytics firm and mother of a Class 8 student, feels similarly. Her daughter's 8 am–1 pm classes are a source of relief. "Online classes keep kids mentally occupied. There are also breaks after each class. This way, kids at least meet their friends," says Ashana. She does, however, add that an extended online schedule would be a failure in the long run.

Teachers don't have it easy either. Rajwinder K, a primary school teacher, says the school he works at hasn't provided the faculty with a laptop or connectivity. While he owns a computer, other teachers can't say the same. Rajwinder prepares pre-recorded classes for his younger students but shares that peers doing live classes need to put in twice the effort. "Students aren't always on mute and that causes distractions. If online classes were to continue in the long run, it would be difficult given the schedule won't be the same," he says, adding that time also goes into preparing worksheets and editing videos for the recorded session.

Dr K G Jagadeesha, Commissioner, Department of Public Instruction

The Government of India has already issued guidelines with respect to online classes and we have constituted a committee to decide how these guidelines should be adopted in Karnataka. Until the committee arrives at a decision, we have issued an interim circular with the following suggestions: two sessions of 30-45 minutes per day on alternative days for Classes 1 to 5; two sessions a day, each not exceeding 45 minutes, for five days a week for Classes 6 to 8; and four sessions a day, each ranging 30-45 minutes, for five days a week for Classes 9 and 10.

Dr Stella Samuel, retired principal, Bishop Cottons Girls School

We should not leave the students without any learning, there should be some amount of teaching. For students of classes 1-5, they can hold online sessions for two hours a day, while for the senior students, slightly longer sessions can be held. There shouldn't be a gap in a child's learning when this pandemic is over. Some amount of learning must be carried on because eventually they have to write exams.

Dr Girish Chandra, senior consultant, psychiatry, Aster CMI Hospital

We need to figure out a way to keep the learning process going. For higher classes, there are many resources that can be accessed, and they only need support to develop self-learning. But for the little ones, it will be useful to impart life skills and structure their day. The focus can shift to neighbourhood kids for socialising. The average attention span of young kids is 10-20 minutes, so educators should structure attractive online classes. Schools are furiously conducting exhaustive classes and in absence of physical interaction, it is becoming boring and stressful. Schools need to provide creative instructions and ask children to complete tasks to promote self-learning in a fun way.

Dr Sandeep Suresh Patil, ophthalmologist, Sakra Hospital

Adequate breaks need to be given between classes. Adequate lighting and if possible, a bigger screen and a 50-100 cm distance from the screen is key. If current situation extends, schools will have to increase the duration. For recorded classes, parents should limit duration to three hours for younger kids, while the older ones can divide their learning into two halves with a total of four hours per day.

BENGALURU BEATS

'I hope Metro extends to airport, Whitefield'

• **Katsumasa Maruo**
Dy Consul-General, Consulate-General of Japan in Bengaluru

There are two serious problems that India, and Bengaluru, face. One, infectious diseases, and like any other country in the world, India is currently burdened with the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to over 6 lakh Covid-19 cases in the country and over 6,000 cases in Bengaluru, diseases like tuberculosis and malaria are also rampant. For example, about 20 lakh people were infected with TB, about 4 lakh people with malaria, and 1 lakh people with dengue in India in 2018.

The second issue is air pollution, which is very serious, especially in Delhi. The average PM2.5 for 2019 in Delhi was 98.6 micrograms per cubic metre. While I hope that the number of people suffering from infectious diseases will diminish and the level of air pollution will decline, in order to solve these problems, technology is very important. Fortunately, Bengaluru is advanced in the area of IT, BT and start-ups.

To reduce the level of air pollution, technology for environment-friendly manufacturing is necessary, and to reduce the number of infected people, the development of vaccines and medicines is effective. So I firmly believe that Bengaluru can contribute to the solution of such problems by prioritising the IT, BT and start-up sectors. I expect that pharmaceutical companies here will not only converge to tackle Covid-19 completely, but also halve the number of infected people in India. Also, I expect Bengaluru start-ups will be able to solve the problem of air pollution in India without stopping the economic growth.

Japan and several other countries have acquired the technology to tackle such problems and frameworks to cooperate with Bengaluru. By cooperation with these countries, Bengaluru will be more advanced as the IT, BT and startup hub in India and in the world.

Solution: In order for Bengaluru to become one of the most advanced cities in the world, the city has to overcome the problem of traffic jams. The key to solving these problems is the extension of Namma Metro. I hope the Metro will be extended to the airport, Whitefield, Electronics City and other key places in the city in a couple of years.

CITY READ

Digital patient care platform launched

Health-tech startup DayToDay Health launched its digital healthcare platform for Smiles Institute of Coloproctology, Bengaluru. The platform is customised to give patients with colorectal conditions a guided and anxiety-free treatment experience covering the entire continuum of care.

Pic credit: Puneet Gowda

Statement in style

• Express Features

Twenty three Kannada heroines, one tribute. Fashion designer Laxmi Krishna has come up with a saree showcasing Sandalwood stars of different eras in a "humble effort" to throw light on the some of the greatest talents of the industry. And actor **Aditi Prabhudeva** lost no time in deciding to present the piece to the world, says Krishna. "When I told Aditi about the saree, she was really thrilled to be the first one to wear it. We put in a lot of effort on the accessories and to create the whole look, so that the saree does not get trolled since these are legends we are speaking about," says Krishna, revealing that it was almost like her lockdown project. "During my research to create a saree like this, I realised that there have been many such efforts in Bollywood, but hardly any down South. Somebody had to start it," says Krishna, who took 15-20 days to design the saree, but had to wait to get it printed due to the lockdown.

Though the saree features 23 Kannada actresses, including Lakshmi, Savithri and Prema, the designer's first pick was Pandari Bai. "She was almost the flag-bearer of female heroines in the Kannada film industry. I just wanted people to know the names of these great personalities in our industry," says Krishna, adding that the saree is not on sale but she is willing to customise it on request. She is also coming up with a similar saree on Bollywood actors soon.

ON A 'ROLE'

'I had to take a break because I wasn't enjoying cinema'

• Express Features

Nithya Menen, who ventured into Bollywood last year with Akshay Kumar's *Mission Mangal,* is now all to make her digital debut, along with Abhishek Bachchan, in *Breathe: Into The Shadows,* that's getting released on Amazon Prime Video on July 10. Nithya discussed her past, present and future in a detailed conversation arranged as part of Indulge Time Pass, a series of webinars organised by The New Indian Express group, and hosted by senior journalist Kaveree Bamzai.

Recalling her experience of working with Mani Ratnam for *OK Kanmani,* she said, "Mani sir got the best out of me by just letting me be. How my character in the film, Tara, views life is close to how I do. Many scenes did not make it to the final edit, but they were all scenes that helped me connect with the character."

On her hiatus from acting after a successful year in 2015, she said, "I took some time out for soul-searching. After the break, people kept asking why I put on weight and speculated if I was secretly married or pregnant but that was all far from the truth. People thought I was having a difficult time when I was actually happy."

Nithya shared that she did not enjoy cinema at the time. "Most people in cinema like it, but I didn't, back then. I took a while to realise that films were my spiritual path. And then, I started seeing the beauty of cinema which is beautiful in how it alters the way people feel." Nithya mentioned that she would like to be a part of good cinema. "I don't want films to be mediocre. It doesn't matter whether I become a star. I want to do better cinema," she said.

Nithya also spoke about her contemporary, Dulquer Salman, with whom she has featured in several films. "He is a proper family guy, and told me how great his marriage is and tried to convince me to get married too," she said. "Our chemistry in films just happened on screen. Even we were surprised when we saw the final output."

Speaking about her upcoming series, *Breathe: Into The Shadows,* she said her character has many shades. "There's more than what you see in the trailer. It being a series helped as the character could have a proper emotional graph." The experience of working with a team including Amit Sadh and Abhishek Bachchan helped bring out her best, she said. "I have always wanted a team with such evolved sensibilities. Amit and I had an intense scene and we both felt all those emotions on the set. We can't wait for the audience to see it. It's my best performance so far."

The actor is also well-known for being a singer, and during this lockdown, she has worked on two songs she hopes to release soon. "I'm eager for a career in the music industry. I have even written lyrics for one of the two songs," she said.

After the lockdown, the actor looks forward to resuming work on two of her Telugu films, one of which marks her production debut. Nithya further added that her project with Dhanush is set to begin in August. "We are both excited about the film."

PANEER TIKKAS

INGREDIENTS

- **Paneer:** 200 g
- **Thick curd:** 1/2 cup
- **Turmeric:** 1/3 tsp
- **Red chilli powder:** 1 tsp
- **Coriander powder:** 1/2 tsp
- **Cumin powder:** 1/4 tsp
- **Garam masala:** 3/4 tsp
- **Ginger-garlic paste:** 1 tsp
- **Ajwain seeds:** 1/4 tsp
- **Gram flour:** 2 tsp
- **Lemon juice:** 1 tsp
- **Oil:** 3-4 tsp
- Salt to taste

METHOD

- Dry roast gram flour separately for about five minutes on low flame and let it cool down.
- In a bowl add all spices/ powders, lemon juice, 1 tsp oil and ginger-garlic paste. Add curd to the mixture and mix well.
- Add the gram flour to the mixture in the bowl and mix well again.
- Cut paneer into medium-sized cubes and add them to the mixture. Ensure the cubes are coated well on all the sides.
- Cover the bowl with a lid and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes to an hour for marination.
- After marination, roast the paneer cubes on a hot oil greased tawa .
- Roast paneer on all sides. Use the remaining oil to spread over the tikkas. Serve hot when they turn golden brown.

— by Gayatri Keelapudi, Bengaluru

QUICK FIX

What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN DURING THIS LOCKDOWN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

SPACE WATCH

CASSIOPEIA CONSTELLATION

Cassiopeia, the queen is one of the brightest and most easily recognised constellations in the night sky. The constellation forms a 'W' or 'M' in the northern sky. It is the 25th-largest constellation out of 88, occupying 598 square degrees of sky. Mathematician Ptolemy cataloged Cassiopeia and other constellations in the Perseus family in the 2nd century. The constellation used to be called Cassiopeia's Chair, but the official name was changed to Cassiopeia the Queen by the International Astronomical Union in the 1930s. The easiest way to spot Cassiopeia is to look for the 'W' in the north. Keep in mind, the 'W' may be on its side or inverted to form an 'M'. If you can recognise the Big Dipper (Ursa Major), the two stars at the edge like the Dipper point toward the North Star (Polaris). Follow the line formed by the two dipper stars through the North Star. Cassiopeia is on the other side of the North Star, about as far away as the Big Dipper, but a bit to the right.

Source: www.thoughtco.com

BRIGHT SPOT

A GREEN MOVE

While most of us are worrying about the new normal, Pune-based techie Vivek Gurav, founder of Pune Ploggers, is worried about all the waste lying in public or tourist places across the city. The group's weekly activity of plogging (picking trash while jogging) has come to a halt. Not one to be dissuaded by the ongoing pandemic, the 24-year-old has found an innovative way to reuse discarded plastic items to make eco-bricks by stuffing plastic bottles with dry waste. Along with his team of over 500 volunteers, the software engineer aims to make 25,000 such eco-bricks by the end of July. The bricks will be donated to NGOs to make planters, and slum dwellers for constructing roofs. Along with his volunteers, he makes these bricks using plastic or any other non-biodegradable dry waste.

Source: The Better India

APPSMART

FaceU

It is a selfie app used by all kinds of fashion icons, web celebrities and renowned stars.
● **Available on:** Android & iOS

PictureThis

Accurate, fast and content-rich, this helps to instantly identify plants. In addition to description and plant care tips, get a view of plant pictures around the world. ● **Available on:** Android & iOS

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SOUND BOARD

ADULTING

Did you ever think being an adult would be this hard? Neither did our hosts Michelle Buteau and Jordan Carlos. The comedians talk about adulting with some of the funniest, most creative adults around.

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HIDDEN BRAIN

American journalist Shankar Vedantam uses science and storytelling to reveal the unconscious patterns that drive human behaviour, shape our choices and direct our relationships.

● On Apple Podcasts

BUSY BEING BLACK

Busy Being Black with Josh Rivers is the podcast exploring how we live in the fullness of our queer Black lives.

● On Google Podcasts

THE MINDSET MENTOR

The Mindset Mentor podcast is designed for anyone desiring motivation, direction, and focus in life. Host Rob Dial helps people find the best version of themselves and lead a life with love and purpose.

● On Google Podcasts

WTF WITH MARC MARON

Marc Maron welcomes comedians, actors, directors, writers, authors, musicians and folks from all walks of life to his home for revealing conversations. Marc's probing, comprehensive interview style allows guests to express themselves in ways listeners have never heard.

● On Google Podcasts

LITTLE WOMEN: A MODERN AUDIO DRAMA BY SHANNON CAMPE

Written by actor Shannon Campe, Little Women: A Modern Audio Drama is based on the popular novel by Louisa May Alcott. The 18-part fiction podcast features the life and adventures of the four March Sisters.

● On Spotify

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

MR AIRAVATA

Airavata, a farmer who was wronged by a few corrupt police officers, decides to take matters into his own hands and joins the police force through wrong means.

● Cast: Darshan, Urvashi Rautela, Prakash Raj

MR. AND MRS. RAMACHARI

Ramachari and Divya fall in love after the former saves her from a group of bullies in their college. However, they part ways when Divya begins to question his behaviour, trust and way of life.

● Cast: Yash, Radhika Pandit

POWER

A politician slips into coma after being attacked by criminals. He wakes up several years later to find his son having taken up his responsibilities. However, things are not what they seem to be.

● Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Trisha

SATHYA

Satya, a jobless youth, does not like injustice but becomes a puppet in the hands of a corrupt politician, Thandapani. Unknowingly, Satya helps the politician in his malicious endeavours.

● Cast: Amala Akkineni, Kamal Haasan

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 A BRIEF HISTORY OF CANNIBALISM BY BILL SCHUTT

Fifteenth-century Europeans believed they had hit upon a miracle cure: a remedy for epilepsy, hemorrhage, bruising, nausea and virtually any medical ailment. It was a brown powder made by grinding up mummified human flesh. But just how common is human cannibalism? Bill Schutt explores the complex history.

2 WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM ANCIENT SKELETONS? BY FARNAZ KHATIBI

Ancient skeletons can tell us a great deal about the past, including the age, gender and even the social status of its former owner. But how can we know all of these details simply by examining some old, soil-caked bones? Farnaz Khatibi examines a fascinating branch of science known as biological anthropology.

3 CAN ROBOTS BE CREATIVE? BY GIL WEINBERG

People have been grappling with the question of artificial creativity — alongside the question of artificial intelligence — for over 170 years. Gil Weinberg investigates this creative conundrum.

4 WHY SHOULD YOU READ CRIME AND PUNISHMENT? BY ALEX GENDLER

Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoyevsky explored the minds of murderers in one of the best-known works of Russian literature: Crime and Punishment. Alex Gendler digs into the classic novel's exploration of alienation, morality and redemption.

5 HOW THE PANDEMIC WILL SHAPE THE NEAR FUTURE BY BILL GATES

Bill Gates talks about the best (and worst) case scenarios for the coronavirus pandemic in the months ahead, explaining the challenges of reducing virus transmission, providing an update on promising vaccine candidates, offering his thoughts on reopening and even taking a moment to address conspiracy theories circulating about himself.

FIT BIT

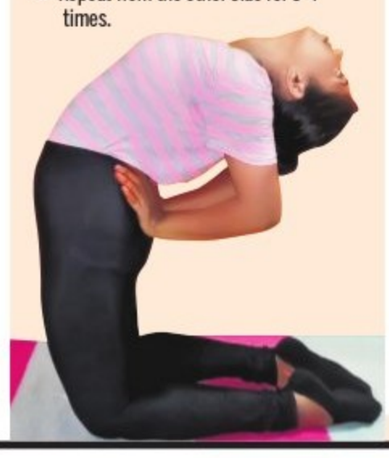
ARDHA USTRASANA

(HALF-CAMEL POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'ardha' means 'half', 'ustra' means 'camel' and 'asana' means 'pose'. The intensity of the backbend and opening of the chest strongly activates the Anahata (heart) chakra. It can help remove emotional blocks and connect the heart and mind. It stretches the chest and lengthens the thighs and groin.

STEPS

- Keep the knees apart at hip-width distance and kneel.
- Place your both palms on the sacrum with fingers pointed down, inhale and lengthen the spine simultaneously pressing the knees down.
- Exhale and press the hips forward with your palms and bend backwards. Make sure the arms support your weight.
- Now, reach your right hand down to the right heel. Make sure you can maintain the balance. If not possible keep the hand on your sacrum.
- Inhale, straighten your left hand up and slowly move it backwards. Once you feel it is safe, drop the head back with support of your left hand. Do this by keeping both hands on the heels.
- Take 3-6 breaths each time holding the breath for up to 30 seconds.
- Slowly, bring both hands back to the sacrum, inhale up and let the head and back come vertical still standing on your knees. Release hips, waist and chest muscles and sit back on your heels.
- Finally, join the knees and come to the original position.
- Repeat from the other side for 3-4 times.



BENEFITS

- Stretches and widens chest, improves respiratory functions, beneficial for people suffering from asthma.
- Stretches abdominal area, stimulates abdominal organs, improves digestive and endocrine system.
- Increases blood circulation to the brain, improves concentration.
- Loosens the vertebrae, stimulates spinal nerves, relieves backache, rounded neck and drooping shoulders.
- Stretches the front of the neck, stimulates thyroid gland.
- Strengthens the upper back and legs.
- Helps open the shoulders.
- Strengthens the neck, back, pelvis and abdominal muscles and relaxes the body.

LIMITATIONS

- People suffering from high blood pressure, heart disease and thyroid should avoid this.
- Those who have severe back ailments avoid this.
- Don't practise if you have hernia or have had abdominal surgery recently.
- Those who had recent or chronic knee, shoulder, neck or back injury or inflammation should avoid it.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

DEVAKI (Kannada)

Based on real events, Devaki a single parent living in Kolkata sets out on a mission to find her only daughter Aaradhya who goes missing after her auditions at a radio station. With the odds stacked against her in a vast city like Kolkata, will she succeed?

- Cast: Priyanka Upendra, Kishore, Aishwarya Upendra
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

KAPOOR & SONS (Hindi)

Brothers Arjun and Rahul return home to visit their ailing grandfather. Amid numerous ongoing family problems, emotions get intensified when a girl causes a rift between the two.

- Cast: Fawad Khan, Siddharth Malhotra, Alia Bhatt
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹129 per month

BABRU (Kannada)

Arjun has to reach Vancouver to propose to his girlfriend. He discovers that his rental car named babru has already been given to Sana. He has no choice but to travel with her. Gu hitches a ride with them and Rico is on a killing spree as his love is held captive.

- Cast: Mahi Hiremath, Suman Nagarkar, Sunny Moza
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

DORA (Tamil)

Pavalakkodi, a mild-mannered woman, purchases a vintage car with her father. However, they soon discover that it is haunted by a spirit who craves revenge for an unknown incident.

- Cast: Nayanthara, Thambi Ramaiah, Harish Uthaman
- Watch on: Zee5
- Registration: ₹99 per month

GHAWRE BAIREY AAJ (Bengali)

Ghawre Bairey Aaj is inspired by Rabindranath Tagore's novel 'Ghawre Bairey' (Home and the World) and is a contemporary retelling of a love triangle involving Tagore's characters Nikhilesh, Sandip and Bimala.

- Cast: Tuhina Das, Anirban Bhattacharya, Kinkini Dasgupta
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹129 per month

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

NORTH 24 KAATHAM (Malayalam)

Harikrishnan, a software engineer who suffers from OCD, is sent on an assignment to Trivandrum. However, he decides to follow a fellow passenger back to Kozhikode and learns valuable life lessons.

- Cast: Fahadh Faasil, Swathi Reddy, Nedumudi Venu
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar
- Registration: ₹399 per year

JUNE (Malayalam)

June, a teenager, believes that there is nothing remarkable about her. She experiences adolescent crushes, handles heartbreaks and fights insecurities as she grows into a mature and confident woman.

- Cast: Rajisha Vijayan, Sarjano Khalid, Arjun Ashokan
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar
- Registration: ₹399 per year

ENGLISH/FOREIGN

BLOW THE MAN DOWN (English)

Mary Beth and Priscilla Connolly attempt to cover up a gruesome run-in with a dangerous man. To conceal their crime, the sisters must go deep into the criminal underbelly of their hometown, uncovering the town's darkest secrets.

- Cast: Morgan Saylor, Margo Martindale, Sophie Lowe, June Squibb
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹129 per month

NIGHT ON EARTH (English, series)

This nature series' new technology lifts night's veil to reveal the hidden lives of the world's creatures, from lions on the hunt to bats on wings.

- Cast: Samira Wiley (narrator), Beren Saat (narrator)
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹199 per month

ROSEMARY'S BABY (English)

After moving into an apartment with Guy, her husband, Rosemary hears and dreams strange things. When she gets pregnant, she suspects her neighbours have sinister plans for her baby.

- Cast: Mia Farrow, Ruth Gordon, John Cassavetes
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹129 per month

THE TERROR INFAMY (English)

Supernatural, semihistorical, horror anthology series, where each season is inspired by a different infamous or mysterious real life historical tragedy.

- Cast: Jared Harris, Derek Mio, Tobias, Kiki Sukezane
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹129 per month

A change in perspective

RUBINATIONS
RUBI CHAKRAVARTI
writer, actor and funny girl

Good morning, Bangalore!

In a blink of an eye, half the year has been swallowed into an abyss. Surely it is disconcerting to feel rootless and disoriented and many of us don't even know what day we are at. Bangalore has seen an alarming spike in the number of cases and people have been running around like headless chickens, anxious and afraid that now no one is safe. Whenever I used to express my anxiety about the rapid spread of the virus, my friends and family would scoff at my fears and their oft repeated refrain would be, 'how many people do you personally know who are afflicted?'

Invariably I would be mollified because truthfully I didn't know anyone who was affected. It was usually a random neighbour of a friend and the like. Now the situation is very different! I know people who are afflicted. Friends, doctors and neighbours who I personally know have not been spared. Now the threat is very tangible and real.

Yet businesses, offices, restaurants and malls are open. The businesses that are really suffering are the hotels and restaurants. Retail outlets have printed the magic word 'sale' on their windows and even the faint-hearted venture in to 'grab and go'! But somehow the restaurants have not been able to instill that confidence in customers to sit a while and enjoy a meal. I suppose the lack of alcohol service and the timings don't really suit a discerning diner who wants his experience to be worth every buck. Everything is turning a wee bit crazy for sure! Household helps and others who had to be paid whether we were or not, have arbitrarily doubled their prices. The middle class is suffering with massive pay cuts and loss of jobs and our government doesn't even pretend to care. The prices of commodities, diesel and petrol are going through the roof, and there is edginess and depression that seems to envelop most of us. Most of us are too overwhelmed to hold on to even casual conversations as there is little to say!

There is also a dangerous new trend and I like to call it the 'lynch mob syndrome'. Shamelessly self-serving people create a conversation and facelessly generate frenzy on social media. It could be anything from old morphed pictures of particular communities to rumours. In a recent case, some self-serving people preyed on the tragic suicide of a depressed young man and turned the ongoing conversation to settle personal cudgels with successful people giving the word 'nepotism' a life of its own. The very same people who never shied away from nepotistic practices before! One shameless actor wrangled himself a political seat from the victim's hometown after meeting with his grieving family and baying for a CBI inquiry which the bewildered family did not want!

Closer to home I was initially shocked to see how uncharitable some people were to others who were trying to do something useful during these unfortunate times, especially people who have lost their jobs or suddenly found themselves without a means of income. I have heard people in 'secure' positions implying 'nepotism' to young people trying their hand in a new business by implying that they wielded

influence by unfair means. I have also heard of people viciously snigger at people trying to show some creativity by deriding their innovative ideas.

My 90-year-old uncle, a retired judge in the Jaipur High Court, had an enlightening conversation with me when I called on his birthday. He said he has lived through several wars, the great depression, inflation, unemployment, the plague and famine. He says he lost count of how many millions of people died due to war or illnesses. He says we complain because we are confined with food, electricity, water and Netflix, none of which existed back then, and yet they survived.

Maybe a change in perspectives can generate miracles!

Representational pic

(From left) Mohammed Uvais Ali, Anand Pilakkat, Jose Xavier and Subir Telang • Meghana Sastry

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

• Muneef Khan

Seven years after they formed the band, Dark Light is out with their debut album; songs highlight themes of love, heartbreak, spirituality, solitude, science fiction and violence

After road-testing material since coming together seven years ago, Dark Light is finally out with their six-track debut album. Known for their ambient soundscapes, detailed instrumentation and evocative vocals, the current line-up features Jose Xavier (lyrics/vocals), Mohammed Uvais Ali (guitars/bass/mixing), Anand Pilakkat (keyboards/sampling) and Subir Telang (drums). While they have been releasing singles, the album comes after a long wait of seven years. According to Ali, bands often take some time before releasing their debut album. And in this time, the members learned a lot about each other and music making. "Our writing and recording process is more streamlined and efficient now. Throughout the years, the band has evolved their sound and musicality as it could be identified in the current writing process," says Ali.

The guitar tones are selected by Mohammed Uvais Ali, as are the samples and orchestration by Anand Pilakkat whereas I give a lot of the creative thought to the rhythm and drum sections
—Subir Telang, drummer

The city-based progressive/ambient rock outfit's album – *In Space and Time* – released on June 15 and comes across as a robust record. Songs cover different themes like love, heartbreak, spirituality, solitude, science fiction and violence, with a story behind each track. While *Planet Goodbye* speaks of a love for sci-fi imagery set in a parallel universe, *Mountain Boy* is on the lines of solitude and *Valhalla* is an exploration on the mythology of warfare from the perspective of Nordic stories. "*Satellite* and *Planet Goodbye* are connected to one another and share a similar theme whereas *Mountain Boy* talks about the collective wisdom of indigenous people and its contrast with modern civilization. *Sinkin Deep* is about looking inward and speaks of spiritual journey while *Circles* is a reminiscence of a college romance," says Xavier.

While the lyrics in the album were penned by Xavier, Pilakkat terms the songwriting as a team effort. He adds, "The instrumentation builds on the narrative of each song and completes them. Some of the ideas stem from the music and vice versa." Mixed by Ali at Astral studios, Bengaluru, and mastered by Ted Jensen at Sterling studios, Nashville, Tennessee, the sound design behind each song aims to take the listener on an inward journey – creating an atmosphere in which a narrative is set. Telang says the sound of the band primarily revolves around the guitars and keyboard, with bass and drum inputs forming a unique rhythm section. He adds, "The guitar tones are meticulously selected by Ali, as are the samples and orchestration by Pilakkat whereas I give a lot of the creative thought to the rhythm and drum sections."

SOLE OF THE MATTER

• Vidya Iyengar

Last year when there was construction activity taking place near Sia Godika's house in Koramangala, she spotted workers who were working barefoot, thereby leaving their feet cracked. "And it was the same with the young children. These were images that have remained in my mind ever since. During the lockdown, I saw many pictures of barefoot migrant workers, and as I researched further, I realised that there were millions of people without foot cover," says the 13-year-old student of Neev Academy, who then went on to take up the initiative, Sole Warriors. Through this, she is collecting usable shoes, refurbishing them if needed and will now give them to the needy. Backed by a network of 'sole warriors', as she calls them, including Plog Raj (founder of Ploggers Army), she hopes to make this a nation-wide initiative.

"One of the United Nations sustainable development goals is good health and well being. How are we going to manage this when people are unknowingly getting diseases just because they are barefoot?," she questions. From personal experience, she also knows many have shoes at home which they never use. "Millions who don't have shoes suffer from foot diseases and allergies. But there are millions more who throw away shoes, which are in a usable condition or they store it at home and never wear them," she says about her initiative's tag line 'Donate a sole, save a soul'.

The initiative accepts all types of footwear (school shoes, house slippers, sports shoes). As Godika explains, for someone without footwear, wearing a pair of "house slippers" on the road would also be a great alternative. After collecting the shoes from apartments/schools, the team takes them to cobblers. Once the shoes are refurbished, they transport them to NGOs who in turn distribute the shoes among people who need them. "Over 1,000 shoes that have been collected will be distributed in Jayanagar, Koramangala and Marathahalli on July 8 and through the next week," she says.

To get in touch, visit thesolewarriors.com

One of the UN's sustainable development goals is good health and well being. How are we going to manage this when people are unknowingly getting diseases because they are barefoot
—Sia Godika, student

Ideating smart solutions

• Express Features

The pandemic may have put a halt to future plans of students but this city-based education startup is aiming to open new possibilities for them. Ken42 has announced an ideathon for college and university students. Called StartNXT, the programme aims to facilitate entrepreneurship, where the top three winners will receive funding up to ₹2 crore each, along with internship opportunities. A sum of ₹10 lakh will be given to the runners-up as well. Candidates will also get mentorship opportunities.

Throughout the six-month ideathon, students will be required to present pitch decks and business plans to a jury comprising leaders from the academic, corporate, investor and entrepreneur community.

Ganesh Raju, founder and CEO, Ken42 said, "In the age of acceleration, young innovators can use their diverse perspectives while harnessing technology to create innovative applications that lead to a better society for all."

The ideathon will be conducted in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, with support from multiple corporates. Registrations to be open from July 6 to August 31.

CITY READ

Bank donates equipment to government hospitals

As part of their 65th celebration of Bank Day, SBI donated seven units of the High Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC) equipment, which cost ₹26.22 lakh, for the benefit of Covid patients. This was a part of the bank's CSR activity. SBI also set up a Covid relief fund of ₹30 crore to undertake relief activities for the benefit of the people affected by the crisis. At apex level, the bank also donated ₹100 crore to the PM CARES fund.

By The Way

Bidding goodbye

The demise of West Indies cricketer Sir Everton DeCourcy Weekes on Wednesday saddened the cricket fraternity. Anil Kumble offered his condolences to the family and posted on social media, "Had met him during the ICC conference in Barbados. He remembered a conversation we had during his time as match referee."

SOULFUL

What is the right relationship?

So what is relationship? Can there be a relationship when each human being has a problem - however trivial, however complex, can there be a relationship when each one is pursuing his own particular aggrandisement? Can there be a relationship when each one pursues his own particular little tendency? Can there be a relationship when there is ambition, greed, envy, when each one has a belief – please follow all this – to which he clings? Can there be any relationship between a man and a woman when one is a Catholic and the other is a Protestant, or a Hindu or a Buddhist – practising, not just casual? So what is relationship? Because it seems to me that it is one of the most important things in life, because living is relationship. If there is no right relationship there is no living at all, it is then merely a series of conflicts, either ending up in divorce, or just separation, or isolation with all its anxieties, attachments, fears and all the things that are involved in this sense of being completely isolated. I am sure you know all this. The more one grows older, not merely in age but in observation, one realises – I must be careful here, observation is not a matter of time, I must withdraw that. One observes in life how extraordinarily vital relationship is. And apparently very few human beings have broken down the barrier that exists between themselves and another. And to break down this barrier, with all the implications in it – not just the physical barrier, one has to go deeply into this question of action. Right? Are we following each other? Good.

What is action? Action is not the future action, or the past action, but action – the acting. Is it the result of a conclusion and acting according to that conclusion? Or is it based on some belief and acting according to that belief? Is it based on some experience and acting according to that experience or knowledge? And if it is, then action is always in the past. No? And so our relationship is always in the past, not the present. Are we meeting each other?

Look: if I have a relationship with another, in that relationship – and relationship is action, obviously – in that relationship I have built up through many days, years, or a week, an image about her, or him. And according to that image I have, I act. And she acts according to that image which she has. And this image is the relationship between her and me, or him and you.

– *Jiddu Krishnamurti*

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I WILL COME BACK WITH ANOTHER *RANGITARANGA*: ANUP BHANDARI

Five years after the release of his directorial debut, Anup Bhandari recalls the journey that began with the mystery thriller, *RangiTaranga*

A Sharadhaa

Director Anup Bhandari expressed his gratitude toward the Kannada film audience while reminiscing the release of *RangiTaranga* in 2015 tweeted, "5 years ago, on the same day (July 3) our *RangiTaranga* became your *RangiTaranga*! Thanks to each and every one of you who made *Rangitaranga* so special for us. (sic)" Anup Bhandari also attached a special video, in which he makes a special mention of the Kannada audience, and says he owes the film's success to them.

Rangitaranga was the directorial debut of Anup, who also wrote the film, which was produced by H K Prakash. The mystery thriller starred a host of newcomers, including the director's brother, Nirup Bhandari, along with Avantika Shetty, Radhika Chetan and Sai Kumar. The latter's performance was hugely appreciated and was also one of the highlights of the film.

RangiTaranga, which opened to a positive response, also made its presence felt on a global level when it was released in Europe, Canada, New Zealand, USA, Australia and UAE. The film was hailed for its technical aspects, such as the work of cinematographers Lance Kaplan and William David, and the background score composed by Anup, who also penned the lyrics. Ask Anup how he would want to describe his memories of *RangiTaranga*, and he says, "Wherever I have spoken about *Rangitaranga* in different parts of the world, I have only mentioned that the successful run happened because of the audience. This was a film, which didn't have huge publicity and it still managed to garner a lot of attraction, only through word of mouth." The director is now looking forward to repeating the history of his debut directorial. "I will come back with another *RangiTaranga*, and I already have thought about it. However, I can't mention a specific deadline, and I want to keep the audience guessing," says Anup Bhandari, adding that he has done the groundwork for the film, and will take it further only after he fulfils his current commitment. "I will take up my next project only after I am completely done with *Phantom*," Anup tells *CE*. The new project is being produced by Manjunath Gowda under the banner of Shalini Artss. This has Anup collaborating with Sudeep for the first time. Ajaneesh B Loknath has been brought on board to compose the music.

Prajwal Devaraj flaunts a mass avatar in *Veeram*

CE Features

Team *Veeram* has come up with a special poster for Prajwal Devaraj birthday, which he celebrates on Saturday. The poster features the Dynamic Prince in a mass avatar. In the film, Prajwal is said to be a fan of legendary actor Sahasasimha Vishnuvardhan. Veeram marks the directorial debut of Khadar, and the project is being bankrolled by Disha Entertainments. Prajwal's last outing was *Gentleman*, which brought him a fair share of accolades. He is now looking forward to the release of *Inspector* Vikram. The actor plays the role of a policeman in the commercial drama directed by Narasimha.

The actor, along with the production team of Vikyath Pictures, gave PPT kits to police personnel on Friday. "We visited the DCP's office to hand over the kits. We take this opportunity to thank them for their excellent job during the Covid situation," says Prajwal.

The actor, who has one song left to shoot for Inspector Vikram, is also waiting for the release of Lucky Shankar's directorial venture, *Arjun Gowda*. Prajwal is waiting for the Covid situation to get better, after which he will resume shooting for Ramnarayan's upcoming project, followed with Veeram and a film to be directed by PC Shekar. "I have five projects in my kitty, which are at different stages of production. In the current circumstances, we need to know when theatres will open and films will start getting released so that we can decide the best time to take up more films," he says.

Legendary choreographer Saroj Khan passes away

CE Features

She was admitted to the ICU at Guru Nanak Hospital in Bandra on June 20 after she complained of breathing issues.

Veteran choreographer Saroj Khan died of a cardiac arrest in Mumbai on Friday. She was 71.

She was admitted to the ICU at Guru Nanak Hospital in Bandra on June 20 after she complained of breathing issues. According to reports, the choreographer had diabetes and age-related illness. She had tested negative for Covid-19 at the hospital.

Saroj Khan had started her career as a child artist and background dancer. Over four decades, she had choreographed more than 2000 Bollywood songs. Her notable films include *Geetaa Mera Naam, Mr. India, Nagina, Chandni, Tezaab, Baazigar, Lagaan, Devdas* and others. She had worked closely with Sridevi and Madhuri Dixit on their hit songs. For her work, Saroj was awarded the National Film Award thrice. In 2019, she choreographed Madhuri Dixit for *Tabha Ho Gaye in Kalank*.

Saroj Khan is survived by her husband B. Sohanlal, son Hamid Khan and daughters Hina Khan and Sukanya Khan.

Saroj Khan

A sensible new-age love story

Ashameera Aiyappan

Marriage in India is complicated. One would think the point of such an institution is to find a person to spend your life with, but compatibility usually features last in the 'marriage checklist.' There is salary, caste... and of course, age. The most favourite joke of 'uncles' and 'aunties' at weddings is to tell a young person that they are next in line. As one gets closer to 30, this insistence on marriage, offered as a solution to every problem, morphs into full-blown panic.

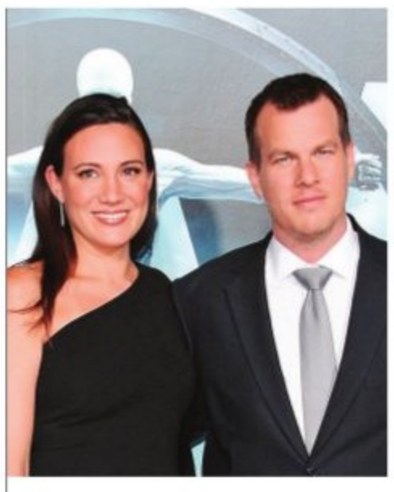
With all this in mind, the premise of Bhanumathi Ramakrishna is interesting. A 30-year-old successful working woman, Bhanumathi, gets dumped by her boyfriend, Ram, who chooses to marry a younger woman. It doesn't matter to him that he is the same age as Bhanumathi. On the other hand, there's the unmarried Ramakrishna (Naveen Chandra) who is 33. We learn that his marital status is on account of expectations of a 'government job' and a commensurate salary. With men expected to reach a position of financial security, in this worsening economy, at the age of 27, a woman's ability to earn has no consequence on their choices.

It is this mismatch of expectations that the film explores with, Bhanumathi and Ramakrishna. Bhanumathi is headstrong, modern and someone interested in profiles rather than people. She says as much when she chooses to promote a fellow employee. It also reflects in her choice of a boyfriend. Money doesn't matter to her, but she's keen that he be successful. Ramakrishna, on the other hand, is naïve, his innocence yet to be marred by the big cities. He is the anti-thesis of the profile Bhanumathi wants, and yet, he makes her laugh. Is that enough though?

The film's mature writing ensures that these characters come across as real people, and not just archetypes. It beautifully walks the thin line between question and judgment—be it her father asking Bhanu about her break-up and weight gain, or Ramakrishna asking Bhanu's roommates about their live-in relationship. In the end, don't we all seek acceptance? The film silently catalogues how the two effortlessly evolve with each other. Both Salony and Naveen are terrific as Bhanumathi and Ramakrishna, bringing a certain ease and nonchalant nuance to their performance.

But I wish the film had focussed on their relationship, and not just its beginning. It is a problem with most of our romcoms: The film ends when the relationship begins. Yes, we see a connection, but it doesn't change that Bhanumathi and Ramakrishna are very different people. She wines and dines, where Ramakrishna orders curd rice. What happens to the small things? Not to mention, there is also the clash of the families. Bhanu hails from a wealthy, progressive family, while Ramakrishna belongs to a middle-class, orthodox family. How do they handle this conflict? But to be fair, all of these conflicts become points to ponder only because of the connection Bhanu and Ramakrishna create with us. And that is an indication of a job done well.

Director: Srikanth Nagothi
Cast: Salony Luthra, Naveen Chandra
Streaming on: Aha
RATING 3.5/5



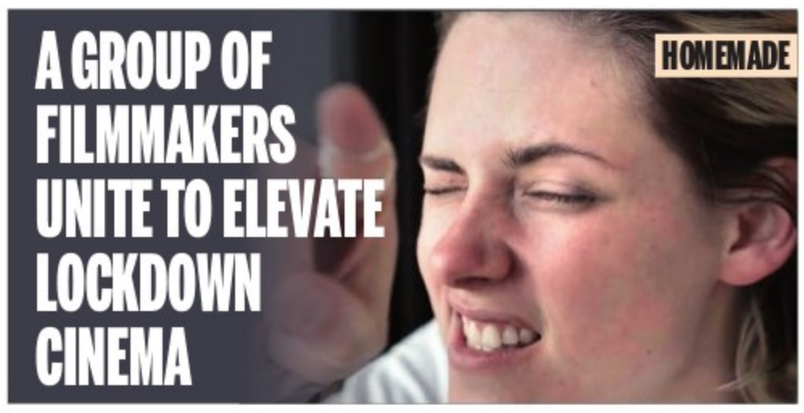
Fallout series from Jonathan Nolan, Lisa Joy in works

CE Features

Westworld creators Jonathan Nolan and Lisa Joy are set to team up for another sci-fi venture for Amazon. Based on the popular video game Fallout, the series will be co-produced by Nolan and Joy's Kilter Films. The new project has acquired a series commitment from the streamer, which according to reports means that it will straightaway go for production without a need for a pilot.

The game series which made his debut in 1997 is set in fictitious 2077 America, a dystopian world of ruin caused by a nuclear war. The games producer's Bethesda Game Studios and Bethesda Softworks have also partnered up with Amazon for the project.

Variety quoted Nolan and Joy as saying, "Fallout is one of the greatest game series of all time. Each chapter of this insanely imaginative story has cost us countless hours we could have spent with family and friends. So we're incredibly excited to partner with Todd Howard and the rest of the brilliant lunatics at Bethesda to bring this massive, subversive, and darkly funny universe to life with Amazon Studios."



Kirubhakar Purushothaman

Even amid all the talk about the decline of theatres, cinema continues to thrive, and that is the chief takeaway from Homemade, the anthology series created by Chilean filmmaker Pablo Larrain, his film producer-brother Juan de Dios Larrain and Italian director Lorenzo Mieli. Streaming on Netflix, Homemade comprises 17 short films of acclaimed filmmakers from across the world that spans different genres. Confined to their homes due to the pandemic, these filmmakers have managed to come up with quality films that capture the mood, desperation, frustration, and hope of the times we live in. The short films also redefine our perception of cinema. Perhaps, the line from the last film in the series, Ride It Out by Ana Lily Amirpur, is most telling: "Art, in its simplest terms, is just a way to force a new perspective onto something familiar. To rip apart its definition and redefine it is the work of an artist."

The variety that Homemade provides is delectable. You have Mayroun and the Unicorn by Nadine Labaki & Khaled Mouzanar, which is an uninterrupted scene of a daughter in her dad's office. She creates a whole new world in that small, cluttered, and chaotic office. And all she wants is to be set free. You see, the pandemic applies only to adults. Kids live in their own worlds unfettered by reality. Perhaps that's why many filmmakers have turned their cameras towards their children to try and capture that innocence. "While I learn the art of patience sitting with uncertainty, you are learning to read, to ride, to swim," tells Rachel Morrison to her five-year-old son in the poetic The Lucky Ones. It hits hard because this is not the greatest time for a kid to grow up in.

Creators: Pablo Larrain, Juan de Dios Larrain, Lorenzo Mieli
Cast: Kristen Stewart, Cate Blanchett, Ladjly
Streaming on: Netflix
RATING 4/5

On the other hand, we have Kristen Stewart, who expresses the adult desperation in her film, Crickets. Confined to her residence in Los Angeles, the actor suffers from insomnia. Crickets taunt her as she struggles to get a break from everything. The film goes on to prove that the exasperation is universal and privileges are of no help when the battle is against nothingness. Haunted by her constant thoughts, she says, "I can't stop. It's not stopping."

But not everything is bleak in this series. Pablo Larrain's The Last Call, my personal favourite, is a brilliant subversion of the current global perception of old people. What kickstarts as an emotional love story takes an unexpected turn. Less said, the better. There is also the hilarious and romantic mobile-screen movie, Couple Splits Up While In Lockdown LOL. The title is self-explanatory.

Such plurality in genres and ideas shows how art finds its way in the worst of times. Homemade goes on to prove that the possibilities of cinema are enormous and a pandemic cannot stop it. The pandemic might have locked down theatres and stopped outdoor shoots, but cinema continues to adapt to changing times, and brings us possibilities we overlooked. It is clear that cinema, much like the world, will not be the same anymore.